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Armenia, Russia Discuss Security Issue

Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis, in remarks on his arrival in Yerevan broadcast by Moscow TV, said "direct" Turkish "military support for Nakhichevan" was "out of the question." Responding to the question of whether CIS or Russian Federation troops stationed in Armenia were "ready to be involved in the issue of Armenia's security," Burbulis said, "that is already beyond doubt." He said the recent Tashkent collective security accord among CIS states meant Armenia and Russia were "even more united." According to ITAR-TASS, Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian at a press conference in Moscow said he had "asked Russian leaders to maintain Commonwealth troops on Armenia territory," while in Yerevan Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, cited by INTERFAX, said Armenia would not be "left in the lurch."

Azerbaijani Leaders on Turkish Role

Radio Rossii reports that an Azerbaijani legislator told a news conference in Moscow that "if events continue as they are now, Azerbaijan will request Turkey to intervene." According to ITAR-TASS, Majlis Chairman Geydar Aliyev told a Nakichevan news conference that Marshal Shaposhnikov's comments on possible Turkish "military interference" followed "the old pattern of...intimidating everybody with a third world war." Ankara ANATOLIA reports that Aliyev said "there was no need for Turkish military intervention at the present state."

Russian Legislature Annuls 1954 Crimea Act

ITAR-TASS reports the Russian Supreme Soviet, on 21 May, determined the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution of 5 February 1954 "On Handing the Crimean Oblast over from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR," to have "no juridical force from the moment of its adoption" because it was "in violation of the Constitution...of the RSFSR and legislative procedure." Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev "positively evaluated" the "balanced decision" claiming the 1954 act was "illegal," like all decisions of that kind, because "they were adopted by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, which was an illegal body." However, the Supreme Soviet "has acknowledged that it is essential to settle the issue...by means of interstate talks between Russia and Ukraine with the participation of representative bodies from the Crimea."

According to Kiev radio, Ukraine Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Vasyl Durdynets said the Russian Supreme Soviet's examination of the 1954 act awarding the Crimea to Ukraine "is considered to be an unfriendly and illegal act that can destabilize the situation in both states."

Crimean Supreme Soviet Actions

According to Moscow radio, the Crimean Supreme Soviet's decision to revoke the proclamation of independence occurred because the deputies believed Ukrainian President Kravchuk's promises to give Crimea "as much power as it wants." Also Kiev's offers of economic aid to Crimea "also affected the decision." The deputies decided to set the question of the abrogation of the "pan-Crimean referendum" aside until 10 June.

The Supreme Soviet also adopted a resolution stating that "concrete proposals expressing the republic's position on the issue of a division of power" between Ukraine and Crimea "are to be submitted to the Ukrainian president," according to UKRINFORM.

Council of Europe Officials Discuss CIS in Minsk

LD2005194692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1832 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Minsk, May 20 TASS—Council of Europe representatives met in Minsk on Wednesday [20 May] to discuss prospects for granting Byelarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia a special invitee status.

The meeting was attended by delegations of Byelarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia.

The participants described the Commonwealth of Independent States as an interim formation. Byelarusian representative Valentin Golubev said Byelarus views its participation in the Commonwealth of Independent States as a period of development and strengthening of sovereignty.

"The Commonwealth of Independent States is only a cover for disgraces that are being commited in the former Soviet Union," Aleksander Gudyma, Ukrainian representative, said.

"The CIS is a mechanism with the help of which the republics should solve their problems in a civilised way and smooth their transfer towards a new status of independent states," Ashot Voskanyan from Armenia said.

"We believe there are enough other organisations in Europe, cooperation with which will be more effective, and it is senseless to create a new 'Warsaw Pact,' " Vasiliy Nedelchuk, head of the Moldovan delegation, said.

He said, however, Moldova has to participate in the Commonwealth of Independent States because it depends on economic ties with Russia and Ukraine.

The participants also discussed clean-up operations in the regions affected by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster and the withdrawal of Russian troops from former Soviet republics.

The Byelarusian and Ukrainian delegations voiced protest against International Atomic Energy Agency experts efforts to water down the consequences of the accident.

Teresa Pekarskaya from Russia urged the participants to grant Byelarus and Ukraine a special invitee status in the Council of Europe.

Shushkevich Speaks

OW2005191192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1749 GMT 20 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In his speech at the Minsk conference of the Committee of the European Council for Liaison with European and CIS Countries, Stanislav Shushkevich revealed that Byelarus is gearing up for a referendum to probe into the need of instituting a presidential office in the Republic. Mr Shushkevich did not specify the date for this issue to be addressed by the Republic's Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He, however, noted that the incumbent supreme body of legislative power ought to give priority to adopting the Republic's new election law and the Republic's new constitution, its draft already containing a provision for instituting the presidential office, rather than holding a referendum, instigated by the opposition, on the vote of confidence to the parliament and the government (if it ever takes place, so long as a decision to hold it belongs exclusively to the Byelarusian Supreme Soviet).

IF [INTERFAX] note: The opposition leaders attribute these assertions to the Mr Shushkevich's uncertainty of his own political future and to his wish to ward off any unfavorable results of such a referendum questioning popular confidence in the powers that be.

CSCE Notes Tashkent Summit 'A Success'

LD2105151292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1701 GMT 20 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Surikov]

[Text] Helsinki May 20—The delegation of the Russian Federation presented information on the outcome of the Tashkent summit of the CIS to the plenary session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) held today in Helsinki. The signing of a number of documents at Tashkent, first of all, the Treaty on Collective Security, agreements on the use of air space, the procedure of maintenance and use of space infrastructure facilities, chemical weapons, reduction in armed forces of the former Soviet Union, principles and procedure of fulfillment of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Force and Armaments in Europe, was noted as a success.

This information was received with a sense of satisfaction by participants of the Helsinki meeting. In their speeches, delegations from the U.S.A., Great Britain, Norway and other countries welcomed Tashkent agreements. The understanding achieved at Tashkent is not only in the interests of the CIS, but in the interests of the entire CSCE as well, the German representative emphasised. These agreements made a great contribution to the success of the Helsinki meeting of 52 participants states of the common European process.

CSCE Representatives Cited on Nagorno-Karabakh

PM2205103592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "Azerbaijan Demands That CSCE Recognize Armenia as Aggressor"]

[Text] Azerbaijan has demanded that the CSCE remove Armenia from making decisions concerning the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, AP reports. "We do not want to sit

at the same table as the aggressor," the Azerbaijani representative Nadir Mekhtiyev told the CSCE committee of senior officials in Helsinki.

Supported by Turkey, the Azerbaijani delegation is insisting on the use measures against Yerevan, similar to those taken against Yugoslavia last week. According to ITAR-TASS information, a meeting of the countries taking part in the forthcoming CSCE-sponsored Minsk conference on a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh has also been held in the Finnish capital. As is well known, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Byelarus, the CSFR, Germany, Sweden, Italy, the United States, Russia, Turkey, and France are to take part in this conference. The Russian delegation has expressed itself in favor of the preliminary work which has been done for the conference. On the contrary, it is essential to accelerate and activate the preparatory measures in order to convene a conference within the planned deadline—23 June.

The representatives of Azerbaijan and Turkey categorically opposed this. They stated that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh no longer exists and that the problem of Armenia's aggression against Azerbaijan has arisen. Consequently, the CSCE must examine the question of curbing the aggressor in the shape of Armenia and using sanctions against it.

On Monday, representatives of the Turkish leadership issued a series of statements aiming, on the one hand, at convincing Baku of its firm support and, on the other, of achieving international intervention in the conflict, which would relieve Turkey of the need to demonstrate its solidarity with Azerbaijan in practice.

In Budapest, Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel urged the international community to direct armed interference in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Nagorno-Karabakh. Meanwhile, acting premier Erdal Inenu linked up by telephone from Ankara with Raffi Ovannisian, the head of the Armenian Foreign Ministry, and demanded that combat operations against Nakhichevan be ended. Answering a REUTER question about the possiblity of military action from Ankara, Inenu said: "Everyone can draw his own conclusions." At the same time in Paris, the heads of the foreign policy departments of, respectively, France and Turkey, Roland Dumas and Hikmet Cetin, stated that they will do everything possible to achieve a cease-fire in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Ankara is noticeably angry that at the forthcoming peace conference, Armenia will, in fact, act in the role of the side which has won a military victory.

Most likely Turkey will persuade Azerbaijan to take part in the conference even on unfavorable terms. However, this viewpoint may fail to find a response in Baku, where the new leaders, who for so long have advocated resolve on the Karabakh issue, have declared universal mobilization and will probably make an attempt in the next few weeks to take Lachin and possibly Shusha.

In that case, Europe will have to treat very seriously Demirel's suggestion regarding direct military intervention in order to use force to compel both sides to introduce a cease-fire and sit down at the conference table.

CIS Conflicts 'Nearing Internationalization'

PM2205162392 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 3

[Article by Aleksandr Golts: "Conflicts in the CIS: One Step From Internationalization"]

[Text] The development of conflicts on the CIS's territory is clearly approaching a new danger point. These conflicts are today giving grounds for direct military intervention by third countries, having become factors which are seriously destabilizing the international situation.

There is first and foremost the question of the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The fact that the flames of conflict have spread from Nagorno-Karabakh to Nakhichevan has caused the most serious alarm in the world. Evidence of this is the U.S. State Department spokeswoman's statement which resolutely condemns the escalation of the violence in Nagorno-Karabakh and Nakhichevan. True, M. Tutwiler avoided singling out the side guilty of the exacerbation of the situation, having emphasized that Yerevan and Baku are giving different versions of the events. "Here in Washington," the State Department spokeswoman pointed out, "we do not intend to judge who is guilty."

However, for the official Iranian and Turkish representatives this question does not arise. They blame Armenia directly. M. Va'ezi, head of the Iranian mediation mission and deputy minister of foreign affairs, called the Armenian forces' offensive actions against Nakhichevan a flagrant act of aggression. Yerevan is losing the trust of a mediator which regarded the Armenian position with some understanding.

As far as Ankara is concerned, it is receiving direct appeals for assistance today. Nakhichevan is awaiting urgent support from Turkey, the republic's Minister of Foreign Affairs R. Ibadov stated.

This appeal has not remained unanswered. "We will send troops to Nakhichevan. They must be sent without hesitation"—this, according to the newspaper HURRIYET, was how Turkish President Turgut Ozal reacted. It is noteworthy that Deputy Prime Minister E. Inonu has met with the Army's supreme command. True, Prime Minister S. Demirel stated later that the question of Turkey's military intervention in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict is not on the agenda at the moment.

Meantime, the international institutions responsible for maintaining peace and stability continue to be in a certain amount of confusion. For example, it is the view

of foreign observers that the skirmish between the Armenian and Azerbaijani representatives has effectively blocked the work of the commission of senior CSCE officials to prepare a conference for a settlement in Transcaucasia.

It looks as if the conflict in the Dniester region is also nearing internationalization. It is significant that the new flare-up of combat operations occurred there at practically the same time as the Romanian president's visit to Chisinau. On that day Bucharest television showed a speech by I. Iliescu on the second anniversary of the holding of free elections. "In connection with the fact that Romania is situated in a 'danger' zone which has been enveloped by national conflicts," the president noted, "the threat exists that it will either be drawn into these conflicts or that one of them will spread to Romania as well." In these circumstances, Iliescu believes, the people "should be ready for any sacrifices." President M. Snegur also appealed to Moldovans to prepare themselves for sacrifices....

Right now it is difficult to name all the consequences which may ensue from third countries' direct participation in conflicts which are already raging strongly on the former USSR's territory. But it is completely obvious that, aside from a further escalation of combat operations, their internationalization will mean that the system of European security and any UN peace efforts in the future will be seriously undermined.

Serbian Deputy Proposes Joining Commonwealth

LD2105194992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1931 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksander Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade May 21 TASS—Serbian parliament deputy Milan Paroski today proposed that deputies urgently adopt a state act on Serbia's entry into the Commonwealth of Independent States.

In his view, this integration is needed in conjunction with the European Community's policy of isolating Serbia and economic blockade imposed on it by the United States.

"It is difficult to hold out on the international scene without allies. Therefore, Serbia can find a solution to the problem of ensuring its security in alliance with Slavic orthodox states." Paroski said.

The proposal by the deputy and leader of the opposition People's Party, who became a very popular politician in Serbia thanks to his radical proposals, has not yet been put to the vote. A decision on it will be adopted at today's or tomorrow's session of parliament.

Economic Experts Views G7 Aid for CIS

AU2205102092 Duesseldorf HANDELSBLATT in German 21 May 92 p 15

[Unattributed report: "The Creditors Must Set Clear Economic Policy Conditions For Moscow"]

[Text] Duesseldorf—At the upcoming world economic summit in Munich, the Western heads of state and chiefs of government should set clear political and economic conditions for the use of the $24 billion aid package for the CIS, said Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, former Moscow chief economic policy coordinator, who began the negotiations with representatives of the Group of Seven (G7) last year.

In an interview with HANDELSBLATT, the Moscow top economist called upon the Russian leadership to expound in a convincing reform concept in what way the money from the West will be used.

Yavlinskiy believes that if the funds that the G7 has pledged it will grant Moscow are wasted, there is the danger that "Russia will lose the West." Moscow's former chief negotiator gives highest priority to the idea that the international credit worthiness must be maintained by way of a timely debt service. If Russia is able to meet its obligations toward the Western banks and government creditors, it could show that "something does work in the difficult transition period."

The fact that the West finally has agreed to make available an aid package of $24 billion represents a political and economic challenge to advance the process of market economy reforms in Russia and the other CIS republics, says the former Moscow chief negotiator. Seen this way, the aid promised by the West will also help the restructuring process to develop peacefully, says Yavlinskiy.

Being one of the co-authors of the "Harvard Plan," Yavlinskiy also initiated the reform course in Russia for important areas. He does not hesitate to criticize his successors' policy. He says that by order of President Boris Yeltsin, his—Yavlinskiy's—successor Yegor Gaydar pursued an economic reform policy "only for Russia" too early, with the result that the forces of the CIS drifting apart have even increased. In addition, the transformation concept represented by him focused on privatization and on a change in the institutional framework, with the goal of giving the higher incomes that are achieved by the liberalization of prices to the largest possible extent to the private sectors that are being formed. Moreover, he preferred to create an essential prerequisite for the market economic restructuring by consolidating the state budgets and by creating a functioning financial system. He put the stabilization of the ruble, which President Yeltsin has given top priority, last.

According to Yavlinskiy, a catalogue of measures should be implemented for the rapid stabilization of national economic reforms and as a basis for further international

aid. First, the economic unity of the current Russian Federation should also be ensured by agreement between the different nationalities. Second, the free movement of goods between the other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be put on a contractual basis. Third, for Russia it is important to lay down the financial and fiscal policy principles and, above all, to put them into practice. Fourth, the privatization of state enterprises should be accelerated, and private ownership of real estate must be made possible. Fifth, the monopolies must be disbanded, including those on a local level. Sixth, the various exchange rates of the ruble should be replaced by a single one. Seventh, foreign trade must be fully liberalized. Eighth, by creating relevant institutions, the government must make sure that foreign debts are serviced. Ninth, a legal framework for bankruptcies must be created.

Yavlinskiy believes that ensuring Russia as an economic area is becoming increasingly urgent. Russia is threatening to disintegrate into many regions, not only for economic reasons—"some are already refusing to pay taxes to Moscow"—but also for political reasons. The disintegration of Russia could also be accelerated by setbacks in the democratization process, for instance, if reactionary politicians took over local power.

Yavlinskiy considers a comprehensive reform of the ruble problematic. He says that the excessive money supply cannot simply be solved by a reform of the ruble because it is part of a very complex problem. There is now not only one central bank, but there are 15 central banks of 15 independent republics, which must negotiate with each other. The economics professor believes that "merely exchanging the ruble holdings is not nearly enough." Strictly speaking, there are only two ways—either the ruble is stabilized or a currency reform is carried out. Moscow has decided in favor of stabilization. In this context, Moscow has always to take the fact into account that 56 million Russians are outside the Russian borders; if Moscow goes it alone they are prisoners, so to speak. The problem of the excessive supply of money has already largely been solved by hyperinflation resulting from the deregulation of prices, says Yavlinskiy.

Even though a large number of the former Soviet republics, which are now independent, intend to abolish the ruble and introduce a currency of their own, they have hesitated time and again to carry out their intention, says Yavlinskiy. Ukraine has, for instance, had particularly great difficulties in this respect. The coupons introduced by Kiev meanwhile have a value of no more than 18 kopeks as against one ruble in the past.

Commonwealth

Yeltsin Optimistic on Future of Commonwealth

LD2205110192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1032 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 22 TASS - "I believe the Commonwealth of Independent States has prospects, since the peoples of the former Soviet Union have not applied for divorce," Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in an interview with the Polish newspaper RZECZPOSPOLITA.

Yeltsin said the 1991 August putsch made further development of republics within one state impossible. He warned, however, against hasty conclusions on the viability of the Commonwealth of Independent States as it is still in the making.

"We have passed several critical points and gained more than lost. The composition of the Commonwealth may change and not necessarily towards the reduction of the number of member-states. What is important is to refrain from imposing artificial forms on anyone and to show the maximum flexibility in combining the interests of the Commonwealth," Yeltsin said.

The president said the majority of the population of Russia, which is taking "only the first steps towards normal society and democracy," will support his radical market reform programme.

Yeltsin stressed he has no power ambitions and will not allow to turn the president into a new political idol. He said he will participate in the creation of the executive bodies of power, the Russian Army and other state institutions "to make these processes more dynamic". Yeltsin said he will "take the initiative when the need arises" and described the condition of his holding several posts as a "necessary but temporary phenomena".

"Despite the forced and stiff measures of the reform's first stage, which strongly affected the living standards of most population, "it passed in a situation of relative social stability, on the whole", the president said.

Now the problem of justice is coming to the fore, but not in a communist, but humanist way: to protect those who are really in need of protection and to provide real opportunities for those who are able to work. "We should provide real freedom for enterprises, firms, businessmen, farmers, etc", the president added.

Yeltsin said he believes in the optimistic meaning of geopolitical changes going now as a result of the Soviet Union's collapse, because they are part of global changes, the essence of which is mankind's integration.

Russia "does not intend to exchange some friends for others". It will maintain broad relations with the USSR's former republics. This does not prevent it from developing relations with countries in Europe, America and other continents.

Relations inside the CIS, as well as with the Baltic republics and Georgia, have a considerable imprint of inter-republican and, to some extent, domestic ties. It would be "unreasonable to destroy them only due to the fact they were inherited and not created anew".

The president noted that Russia resolutely discarded the logic of domination in its foreign policy. Such logic was the essence of the USSR's policy towards Eastern Europe.

At the same time, he stressed, Russia wants relations between the former Soviet republics to be active, rich in content and multilateral.

I believe that the pause which set in in these relations after peaceful revolutions, is dragging on too long. Our borders should turn into the borders of friendship. The main roadblocks have been removed," the president noted.

Yeltsin expressed hope that the treaty on friendly and good-neighbourly cooperation, as well as other Russian-Polish documents, would give good impetus to mutual relations between the two countries.

Integration which recently began in Europe, is a good guarantee against the revival of "the ghosts of the past", the old structure of blocs and counter-blocs, characteristic of old Europe.

Black Sea Fleet

Military Council Criticizes Ukraine Instructions

LD2005150692 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1250 GMT 20 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Mikhail Stetsyuk for TASS]

[Text] Sevastopol, 20 May—The Military Council of the Black Sea Fleet views the instructions by the Ukrainian Defense Ministry—to staff units and ships only with conscripts from Ukraine—as a fresh stage in the escalation of tension. In a statement on this, the Military Council once more recalls that the fleet is subordinate to the CIS Joint Armed Forces and must be staffed according to the plan of the General Staff of the CIS naval forces. In addition, the disruption of the unified system of training of young experts for all CIS fleets must not be allowed, as it would lead to a fall in the standard of professional training of sailors and petty officers.

The statement points out that a term of service on ships lasting less than two years will not ensure safety of navigation. According to the Ukraine law on universal military duty and military service, conscripts from Ukraine will be placed in fleet units for one-and-a half years.

Russian-Ukrainian Fleet Talks Continue

OW2005143192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1409 GMT 20 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [20 May], Russian and Ukrainian delegations met in Dagomys (the coast of the Black Sea) to continue their talks on the Black Sea Fleet. According to sources in the Krasnodar administration, the coast-guard flotilla based in Sochi will remain under Russia's control.

Some sources report that the participants in the talks will visit the flotilla's biggest three-deck ship, the Caucasus, which was once used for the former Soviet leaders' sea journeys.

Russia, Ukraine Prepare for 2d Round of Talks

LD2005180692 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1652 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Moscow, May 20 TASS—Heads of the Russian and Ukrainian delegations to talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet met in Moscow on Wednesday [20 May] to discuss the preparation for the second round of talks to be held in Sochi, a resort city on the Black Sea, this summer.

The meeting was attended by Yuriy Yarov, deputy Russian parliamentary speaker, and Vasiliy Durdints, deputy Ukrainian parliamentary speaker.

They agreed to hold another working meeting in Kiev at the end of May.

Black Sea Fleet, Crimea 'Must Not Be Linked'

OW2105125792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1232 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The problem of the Crimea must not be linked with the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, Chairman of the Russian Defence Ministry's State Commission for the Formation of the Armed Forces told IF [INTERFAX]. He believes that the problem of the Black Sea Fleet must be solved on the basis of talks leading to a compromise between Russia and Ukraine. He also believes that Georgia, too, may lay claims on a part of the Black Sea Fleet because some of the naval units are located in its territory. He does not think the Russian parliament should raise the question of reversing the 1954 acts on the Crimea. What it should do, is to give a political and legal assessment of those decisions, said Volkogonov.

Georgian Naval Forces Invited for Talks

PM2105150792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 May 92 p 1

[Georgiy Lebanidze untitled report under the "Another Day Gone. What's New?" rubric]

[Text] Yesterday, the Republic of Georgia Defense Ministry Press Service reported that the ministry, in the person of Captain First Rank A. Dzhavakhishvili, chief of the republic Naval Forces Directorate, had received a communication from the Black Sea Fleet command expressing a positive attitude toward the creation of naval forces in Georgia. A working group of Georgian specialists has been invited to Sevastopol for talks 25-27 May.

Military

More on Shaposhnikov 20 May News Conference

MK2105142592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 92 p 1

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report: "CIS Commander in Chief Loses Premises, But Is Convinced That Joint Armed Forces Will Survive"]

[Text] "The signing of the Treaty on Collective Security reinforces the idea of the CIS' existence," Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, said at a press conference yesterday. Furthermore he also entertains the possibility of the existence of Joint Armed Forces themselves. "With strategic forces on the territory of four states we were destined to have a general command. The collective treaty has brought about a CIS organ of command for conventional arms too," Shaposhnikov said. In his opinion, these organs will tackle cadre policy, form troops, and train reserves for joint operations.

Admittedly, no decision was reached in Tashkent as to who will pay for the upkeep of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and how much, or on the principle on which they will be structured (Shaposhnikov, for instance, is categorically opposed to the quota system since he reckons that this will result in dual subordination) and the Russian Defense Ministry has taken away the commander in chief's premises—next week they are to move to the former headquarters of the Warsaw Pact Joint Armed Forces.

So far the scenarios for joint operations by the Joint Armed Forces have not been decided. When asked whether the CIS Joint Armed Forces would enter a conflict on the side of Armenia, a signatory to the treaty, if Azerbaijan starts aggression, the marshal replied that "there is no mechanism for involving CIS troops in the event of a conflict" and that these matters will be decided by the Collective Security Council.

The commander in chief believes that Byelarus may sign the Treaty on Collective Security.

Shaposhnikov Cited on Strategic Aviation Issue

PM2105143192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 92 p 3

[Major S. Prokopenko report under the "Direct Line" rubric: "Whose Side Are You on, Fellows, Who Will Lead You Into Battle?"]

[Text] Moscow—It seems that another complication has become bound up with the tight knot of contradictions that have cropped up between Russia and Ukraine in the wake of the Black Sea Fleet. A no less significant one. This is the issue of strategic nuclear forces. Under a presidential decree of 5 April, Ukraine placed under its jurisdiction all armed formations stationed on its territory. A special center for controlling strategic nuclear forces and commanding the long-range aviation group has been established in the republic's Defense Ministry. Why does Ukraine need a long-range aviation strike group? How does this step by the Kiev leadership relate to the agreements on strategic forces that were adopted earlier in Minsk and Alma-Ata? Who are we subordinate to in the final analysis?

These and a number of other questions were raised by the aircraft commanders [komandiry korabley] of a long-range aviation regiment stationed at Uzin at a meeting held in Moscow with Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of CIS Joint Armed Forces, and representatives of the CIS Air Force and long-range aviation command.

This regiment, which in the recent past was one of the best in long-range aviation, achieved notoriety when most of its airmen refused to take the oath of loyalty to the Ukrainian people. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already written about this. However, judging by the airmen's accounts, somebody resolved to drag the pilots under the yellow and blue colors by hook or by crook. What other explanation can there be for the fact that over the last two months the regiment's airmen have flown only two flight operations shifts. Major General Bashkirov, acting commander of the long-range aviation group on Ukrainian territory, grounded detachment commander Major Demushkin because he was allegedly planning to fly abroad, to Russia. Some of the pilots have not flown now for more than three or four months...

Marshal of Aviation Ye. Shaposhnikov noted that the actions of the Ukrainian leadership are inconsistent with the previously adopted agreements regarding strategic forces and are establishing a precedent for pulling them apart into national compartments. In this connection the CIS Joint Armed Forces Command has sent a number of documents to the CIS heads of government on whose territory the strategic nuclear forces of the former USSR are stationed. These documents contain a proposal that they should define their positions on this important issue: Whether to confirm their adherence to the agreements adopted in Minsk and Alma-Ata or whether to review them. However, these problems will also be examined at a meeting of the defense ministers of CIS states scheduled to take place 26 May.

A number of questions were touched on during the meeting connected with legal and social protection for airmen who are doing their military service on Ukrainian territory but who have not taken the oath to Ukraine. The commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces assured the regiment's airmen that none of them would find himself out of the service...

[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 20 May carries on page 2 of its First Edition a Sergey Nagayev report on the same meeting entitled "To Moscow for the Truth." Its final two sentence read: "Commander in Chief Ye. Shaposhnikov noted that nobody would be out of a job and firmly insisted that jurisdiction should be unified and interstate. In order to resolve this problem (or to find any solution at all to the problem) the commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces intends to assemble the defense ministers of all the Commonwealth countries in the new Joint Armed Forces residence in Moscow 26 May."]

Army Paper Shares Optimistic View of Summit

PM1905140592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 May 92 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel V. Astafyev and Captain Third Rank V. Yermolin: "Six Republics Take Up Collective Security. Doors Left Open for the Rest"]

[Text] The series of questions so scrupulously prepared by the diplomats and military men were gotten through in virtually half a day by the heads of CIS states meeting in Tashkent. We will highlight just one question: the Agreement on Collective Security. Actually, the fact that this document was signed by only six countries (Kazakhstan, Russia, Armenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenia, and Uzbekistan) was not overdramatized by any of the participants in the meeting. Nursultan Nazarbayev, for example, considers that the signing of this agreement by the other states is merely a matter of time. Boris Yeltsin shares the same view. You can certainly agree with those who regard the Agreement on Collective Security as a fundamentally new turn in relations among Commonwealth countries. At any rate, it is the first document of its kind which not only commits CIS countries to military cooperation, but also clearly states the principles of mutual military assistance: In particular, the document lays down that if one party to the agreement is the target of aggression "the others will regard it as an act of aggression against them all."

It should be noted that in general Tashkent saw new approaches to resolving defense questions displayed in many respects. For example, Ukraine frankly stated it would not join the CIS Joint Armed Forces. Hence, the line of rejecting virtually all documents which would commit Ukraine to spending in any way on defense matters of a collective nature. We have already mentioned the position adopted by Lieutenant General Ivan Bizhan, head of the Ukrainian military delegation and deputy defense minister. He made it unambiguously clear that the republic rejects in principle the possibility of joining any military alliance whatsoever. True, in response to a question from us, the general did agree that circumstances were possible which would force Ukraine to resort to joining a military bloc. But clearly Ukraine sees no such prospect for itself in the near future. On the

other hand, in Bizhan's opinion, a constant danger of encroachment on the Ukrainian Defense Ministry's autonomy stems from the CIS Joint Armed Forces Main Command. That is why Kiev made the decision not to join the CIS Joint Armed Forces.

Another question which interested journalists a lot also remained unclear: Is Ukraine becoming a nuclear power, having placed the strategic nuclear forces deployed on its territory under its command, albeit only administratively? Operational command is retained by the commander of the CIS Joint Armed Forces Strategic Forces, but without the possibility of centrally influencing personnel policy and other vitally important issues affecting the troops, it cannot be ruled out that this command will, with time, become very hypothetical in nature.

Unfortunately, Byelarus also voiced a dissenting opinion on a number of defense issues. Hopes have to be pinned on the republic's Supreme Soviet, which will clearly examine the possibility of subscribing to the Agreement on Collective Security. It is well known that the Byelarus delegation was disturbed by the vagueness of the division of the former USSR Armed Forces: What belongs to whom today? Given the lack of such clarity, it is premature, in the opinion of Colonel General Pavel Kozlovskyy, republic defense minister, to start talking about a unified defense budget. The republic also isolated itself on the question of financing the border troops, not supporting the idea of common border troops under unified command. Byelarus showed solidarity with Ukraine over the destruction of chemical weapons, leaving it to Russia principally to tackle this problem. The arguments here were: We neither produce nor store chemical weapons and should not therefore have to bear the cost of their destruction (as if these weapons were created solely in the interests of Russia and purely at its volition).

It would be wrong to search for any malicious intent in the position of the "nonaligned." Every republic is entitled to follow its own path and to tackle defense questions in its own way and is entitled all the more so to demand clarity wherever, in the republic's view, that is lacking. Let us hope that the system of collective security will eventually assume a form that matches the ideas on military cooperation of every Commonwealth state. You have to agree with those who regard the results of the Tashkent meeting, including the military aspect of it, optimistically. Just as the military commanders and ministers were able to collaborate during exercises, they will, presumably, also be able to master the art of diplomatic compromise. The main thing is to avoid interrupting the dialogue.

Media

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 22 May

LD2205060892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0551 GMT 22 May 92

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, May 22 TASS—Today's newspapers carry reports about the situation in trouble spots of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Newspapers comment on decisions made by the Russian parliament concerning the 1954 act transferring the Crimea under Ukraine's control.

"Although supporters of the abolition of the 1954 act do not call openly for the return of the Crimea to Russia, it is obvious that after the act is canceled the peninsula will become Russia's territory de jure," the youth daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA said.

The newspaper ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA publishes a historic reference proving that the Crimea had always been Russian territory and that "decisions of 1954 violated international law".

The Black Sea Fleet command described a Ukrainian Defence Ministry decision to draft only Ukrainians to the Fleet this year as an escalation of tension.

The military daily KRASNAYA ZVEZDA carries reports about the situation in the break-away Dniester Republic.

The 14th Army stationed in the conflict zone "fights against fantasies, conjectures, black mailing, political pressure and attempts to involve it in the armed conflict," the newspaper writes.

Moldovan Vice President Aleksandr Karaman denied in an interview with KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA that hard-liner Albert Makashov, commander of the Urals Military District, has been appointed military adviser in the Dniester Republic.

The newspaper NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publish the chronicles of the war in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and on the border of Armenia and the Nakhichevan Republic and comment on Turkey's position in this conflict.

"The Turkish air forces have been put on alert," the newspapers said, quoting the command of the Transcaucasian Military District. Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev informed the district command about plans to pull out three divisions from the region by the end of 1992.

About 400,000 Russians live in Azerbaijan but "the wave of emigration grows because of the war," Vladimir Zotov, head of the Azerbaijani society "Sodruzhestvo" told ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes an interview with Russian Vice- President Aleksandr Rutskoy, where he speaks about the future of the Russian Armed Forces.

Rutskoy proposed a three-stage plan of the creation of the Russian Army by the year 2000 and a programme of military cuts.

He suggested creating the Russian Army on the basis of "the existing structure of the Armed Forces with simultaneous radical cuts in personnel and armaments of all types to the level necessary to ensure security of the state and allies".

Rutskoy said the Army's main task is to prevent local conflicts and wars. He called for a reliable mechanism of civil control over the Army.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries reports about the situation on the border of Turkmenistan, Iran and Afghanistan. On the Serakhs section of the border alone, the number of border violators and smugglers increased by more than five times since 1986, the newspaper said.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA analyses the situation in Tajikistan. It believes the Republic will eventually become an islamic state and stresses the need to prevent extreme actions by Muslim movements.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA publishes an interview with Igor Khalevinskiy, Russian deputy minister of labour. He speaks about problems of and prospects for employing Russian citizens in other countries. Under a recently initialed Russian-German agreement, Germany will employ 13,000 Russians, Khalevinskiy said.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA offers an article about St. Petersburg police operation to detain an Arab terroristic group suspected of planning several terroristic acts against Western diplomats in St. Petersburg.

Yevgeniy Lukin, city police spokesman, said the results of the investigation may affect relations between Russia and Arab states.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an interview with former Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov taken by the IMA-PRESS news agency at the request of the Italian newspaper REPUBBLICA.

Pavlov denied accusations of staging a coup in the country in August 1991. He said perestroika was provoked by the West to "ruin and divide the country and take control over its economy".

Pavlov criticised Russian President Boris Yeltsin of repeating mistakes of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. Pavlov said Gorbachev "has not been living on his salary for 30 years".

International Affairs

Kozyrev Stops in Prague on Way to Lisbon

To Meet Baker in Lisbon

LD2105202492 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2001 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kanishchev]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will discuss preparations for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to the United States, which is planned for June, in Portugal this week. This became known after the announcement of the programme of Kozyrev's visit to this European country. Kozyrev flew to Portugal on an official visit today and also plans to meet Baker there.

Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to the U.S. confirms that the world's two major countries, one of which shrank in size as a result of the break-up of the USSR, are prepared to keep the established tradition of holding regular top-level meetings once in half a year to solve key multilateral and bilateral problems and maintain personal contacts between the two heads of state.

Like in previous years, the disarmament topic—issues pertaining to nuclear armaments and the ratification of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START)—will be centre stage to the talks in Portugal. The direct contact between the Russian and U.S. governments on this theme is logical and timely. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has visited Washington only recently and Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev is staying there at present. The leaders of these countries which together with Russia possess nuclear weapons of the former Soviet Union stated that Kazakhstan and Ukraine were ready to part with this weaponry and become nuclear-free states over time.

The working meeting between Kozyrev and Baker can become very important for the exchange of information and considerations about the sides' further actions on this path.

Meets Dienstbier in Prague

LD2105231192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2021 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Georgiy Shmelev and Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague, 22 May—On his way to an official visit in Lisbon late on Thursday evening, Andrey Kozyrev, Russian foreign minister, made a brief stopover in Prague. At the airport he had a meeting with CSFR Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier in the course of which the heads of the foreign policy departments of the two states exchanged opinions on the present situation in Europe and the progress of pan-European processes. The ministers paid special attention to the problem of "hotspots," primarily in Nagorno-Karabakh, the Dniester region, and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Andrey Kozyrev informed his Czechoslovak colleague about the situation in the places of armed confrontation on the territory of the former Soviet Union and the results of the first stage of his recent trip around the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the republics of the former SFRY. A. Kozyrev and J. Dienstbier studied the prospects for participation of the structures and mechanisms of the CSCE in the peaceful settlement of conflicts on the continent.

In response to journalists' questions, A. Kozyrev said that his visit to the Yugoslav republics would be continued, primarily to Bosnia-Hercegovina. "It is necessary to stop the outbreak of nationalism and intolerance, to achieve a cease-fire and embark on constructive negotiations," the minister stated. Russia, A. Kozyrev noted, will support the implementation of CSCE decisions. "Our friendly relations with Belgrade do not mean that we reject the need to fulfil the requirements of the CSCE and the United Nations Organization, the leader of the Russian foreign policy department emphasized. We consider that we can suggest several options for the settlement of the conflict, but within the framework of the decisions adopted by the CSCE."

A. Kozyrev dwelt on certain domestic political issues inside Russia. Among other things, he stressed that there is the problem of the nomenklatura seeking its revenge. Attempts are being made to rehabilitate the CPSU. "We," the minister said, "are not against Communist parties and Communist ideology. This is a matter of personal conviction. But I regard suggestions that the CPSU should be rehabilitated and the decree banning it be revoked as completely unacceptable. In this instance we are not talking about a party but about a structure above the state and outside the law which usurped power. Ordinary Communists have nothing whatsoever to do with this."

From Prague the Russian minister left for the Portuguese capital where, at the end of his official visit, he will take part in the Lisbon conference on aid to the newly independent states of the CIS, and also hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on Russian-U.S. relations, nuclear armaments and the ratification of the treaty on strategic offensive armaments.

Comments on Yugoslav Trip

LD2205095392 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Georgiy Shmelyov and Vitaliy Yaroshevskiy]

[Text] Prague May 22 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said he will continue his tour of former Yugoslavian Republics which he interrupted to attend a session of the Russian parliament. "It is necessary to

stop the splash of nationalism and intolerance, to achieve ceasefire and begin constructive talks", he told reporters late on Thursday [21 May] during a brief stop-over in Prague on his way to Lisbon, where he will stay on an official visit.

"Our friendly relations with Belgrade do not mean we are rejecting the necessity of fulfilling the CSCE and U.N. demands. We believe we can prompt some variants of settling the crisis, but in the framework of CSCE decisions", the minister said.

Bosnia-Hercegovina will be paid most attention during the tour, Kozyrev added.

"Hot spots" in Europe and the former Soviet Union were in the focus of discussion between Kozyrev and his Czechoslovakian counterpart Jiri Dientsbier. Special attention was devoted to Nagorno-Karabakh, the breakaway Dniester region of Moldova, as well as to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Speaking on the latest developments in Russia, Kozyrev said former Communist Party nomenklature is seeking a revenge and attempts to rehabilitate the Communist Party. "We are not against Communist Parties and Communist ideology. This is a matter of personal convictions. But I consider completely unacceptable attempts to rehanilitate the CPSU and cancel the decree which bans it. In question is not a political party, but a Sovra-state and illegal structure which usurped power. Rank-and-file Communists have nothing in common with it", he said.

In Lisbon, after his official visit is over, Kozyrev will attend a Conference on Aid to the Commonwealth States and will hold talks with U.S. State Secretary James Baker on nuclear armaments and the START Treaty ratification process.

Arrives in Lisbon

LD2205062792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0110 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Lisbon, 22 May—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today arrived in Portugal on an official visit. The first day of the visit will begin with talks with Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro to discuss a wide range of issues in Russo-Portuguese relations and the situation in Europe, and to exchange opinions on international affairs. Andrey Kozyrev will also take part in the international conference on assistance for the newly independent states of the CIS, due to open here on Saturday.

Polish President Pays Visit To Moscow for Talks

'Arguments' Continue

PM2205104492 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Arguments in Warsaw on Eve of L. Walesa's Visit to Moscow"]

[Text] Warsaw—Only recently a delay to this visit prompted criticism of the president from a section of the Polish press and the opposition. However, now the decision to make the visit has been adopted, the date has been set, the suitcases, so to speak, are nearly packed—and what now?

Once again voices are raised in dissatisfaction, not at the delay, but at.... the haste. Several ministers, for instance, expressed last-minute doubts as to whether the text of the Polish-Russian treaty that has been drawn up is perfect. The proposal to include in the preamble passages condemning Stalinism and the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact came from the government. If this is not done, a group of ministers have even threatened to resign.... However, the Polish Foreign Ministry counters that, the Russian side could demand that other truisms be mentioned; no, such a treaty, which sketches the outline of future collaboration, should be free from all this.

President L. Walesa also came out against amendments of this kind to the treaty—if only because it could postpone the signing or make it completely impossible.

L. Moczulski, leader of the Confederation of Independent Poland party, at a session of a deputies' commission, promised, not without a hint of a threat, once again to take issue with Pan Minister Skubiszewski and study the treaty point by point in the Sejm. Those who take a hawkish view as "defenders of Polish interests" accuse Skubiszewski and Walesa of incompetence and "spinelessness."

The criticism, the latest mutual accusations of showing a "summit war" spirit, and the suspicion among the parties, possibly dictated by simple ignorance, are unfortunately being voiced quite loudly. Although all the same, it seems that they do not define the general background mood in Poland on the eve of the president's visit to Moscow. Public opinion expects much from this event. Parliamentarians belonging to the Sejm foreign affairs commission came out virtually unanimously in favor of the treaty, and also of economic agreements designed to settle the substantial problems in relations between Russia and Poland.

L. Walesa himself is also in a businesslike and resolute mood, although consultations and meetings are continuing literally until the last moment.

It is known that in the course of the visit, apart from the main treaty, documents will be signed on the withdrawal of troops (along with a financial and property protocol), on the transportation of Russian troop units out of

Poland, and on the transit of troops from Germany, a protocol concerning the sale of immovable property, and also a package of agreements in the sphere of the economy and culture. This will resolve many knotty problems.

Walesa 'Dissatisfied' With Ties

PM2105193192 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 May 92 First Edition p 7

[Valentin Volkov report under the "Russia and the World" rubric: "Lech Walesa: I Am Dissatisfied With Our Relations With Russia"]

[Text] Poland and Russia need each other; we can do a great deal for ourselves and play a big role in Europe and in the world, Polish President Lech Walesa declared in reply to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question about the prospects for Russian-Polish relations. He received a group of Russian journalists on 20 May, on the eve of his official visit to Russia.

As of today, I am dissatisfied with almost all spheres of our relations, the president continued. We must finally establish our cooperation in a new way. Poland and Russia are doomed to live alongside each other. They must be guided by the future above all, and draw the correct conclusions from the past. Therefore I hope that my visit will help to eliminate all these gaps, to close one section and open a new one, which will create great opportunities for both peoples.

Our two countries, L. Walesa said, must cast off the burden of the past, help themselves in the reforms and in their realization, preserve certain ties, and create other ones anew. We should help each other even before others help us; the opportunities for this are great, only it is necessary to start the process of creation under conditions of openness in all spheres. We have not yet succeeded in this, but now is the right time to settle old questions and open up new opportunities. We must get things moving as quickly as possible and think about partnership. Therefore, I am going to Moscow with a feeling of hope, in order simultaneously to close a stage which has caused us nothing but harm, the president pointed out.

Answering a question about the possibility of Russia's making use of Polish experience, L. Walesa said that we must hope for the Russians to realize that there is no choice other than the market economy, citizens' freedoms, and pluralism; if they want to be a great people—and they have every reason to—they must achieve concord, and reform the country in such a way as to raise it up to world standards.

The entire experience of civilization, of the world, and now of Poland too, which commenced certain things somewhat earlier, is experience in which there have been mistakes and good things. Russia must take only what is good and avoid what did not come off in our country—for example, the emergence of unemployment. As a great country, you must avoid our mistakes and other mistakes; we wish you this, the president declared.

L. Walesa described the present state of economic ties between the two countries as very unfavorable. We are not utilizing the great potential of both Russia and Poland, he said. Coproduction ties have been broken off, and yet these are two large countries with great potentials. Therefore it is necessary to develop contacts between entrepreneurs and enterprise directors and open up opportunities to seek other economic solutions. Yet the West will not help us, the president pointed out. We must help ourselves. Of course, we should not reinstate the old CEMA or revive the former policy, but it is necessary to preserve ties, so that there is a chance of making changes and proceeding to new decisions.

Speaking about the possible role of Poland and Russia in creating an all-European security system, the president advocated a search for new solutions on the way to this goal which will not revive old dependencies but will be aimed only at ensuring guarantees of security. He recalled his own proposal to create "NATO-b"—a transitional association of those countries which want to join NATO and which strive for security on the scale of Europe and the whole world. This association would not be a reconstruction of the old bloc; it would ensure the security of its member countries with its own forces, as well as order and stability, because of what is happening in Yugoslavia still threatens us, he said. Such a well-formulated solution could safeguard us against territorial disputes and against the changing of borders by force and lead at the same time to joint security.

Answering a question about what he would like to wish the peoples of Russia on the eve of his visit, L. Walesa pointed out that neither Russia, nor Poland, nor other republics can be transported to America. We are doomed to live together, alongside one another. Today we must build together, a common home for our children. Today we must apply standards which have already proved their value in the world; we have no other choice. The only question is how quickly we implement all this and at what cost. In order for the process to proceed faster and with less expenditure, it is necessary to seek concord among social forces with regard to the direction and principles, and think about how to awaken responsibility for the country, public activeness, and how to teach the new thinking on a global scale.

Met By Rutskoy in Moscow

LD2105162292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—President Lech Walesa of the Republic of Poland arrived in Moscow this evening on an official visit. The high polish guest was met at the airport by Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy.

On the programme of Walesa's visit is his meeting with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov and also a group of Russian industrialists and entrepreneurs.

Russian-Polish talks are expected to focus on bilateral economic cooperation and problems associated with the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from Poland.

A range of major agreements in various areas is expected to be signed.

In addition to Moscow, Walesa will also visit Smolensk and St. Petersburg.

Walsea Meets With Yeltsin

LD2205091492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—The official ceremony at which Russian President Boris Yeltsin welcomed Polish President Lech Walesa, who has arrived in Moscow, took place today in St. George's Hall in the Grand Kremlin Palace. This is the first meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Lech Walesa as heads of state. Welcoming the leader of the Polish state, Boris Yeltsin voiced the hope that a new era, based on mutual understanding, mutual benefit, friendship, and good-neighborliness will begin in Russo-Polish relations.

Immediately after the welcoming ceremony, Russo-Polish talks began with a limited number of participants.

Friendship Treaty Signed

LD2205121192 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1117 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sergey Postanogov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 22 May—"An historic event, without exaggeration, took place today—a treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Poland on friendly and good-neighborly cooperation was signed"—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said after the signing ceremony of Russian-Polish documents in the Kremlin.

This large-scale document, he noted, has laid down a qualitatively new foundation for developing relations between democratic Russia and friendly democratic Poland in the political, economic, humanitarian and other fields. Our relations will be built from now on on the principles of true equality, respect for each other's sovereignty, good-neighborliness, and mutual advantage, stressed Boris Yeltsin. "By signing the treaty, our states, which have rid themselves of communist regimes, are opening a new epoch in their mutual relations and will promote the development of the European process more efficiently," he noted.

In the Russian president's words, a whole number of treaty provisions logically follows from the CSCE basic principles and will contribute to developing this process even further and strengthening fruitful interaction and cooperation on European continent. Boris Yeltsin reported that apart from documents planned earlier, a joint statement was also signed which condemns the former totalitarian regimes in the two countries.

Poland's President Lech Walesa, who then spoke, called the treaty a new chapter in Russian-Polish relations. "Prospects and possibilities for very broad cooperation are opening up before us," he noted. "Independent Poland and democratic Russia have many common interests and a great deal can be done together to mutual advantage."

Poland's president expressed confidence that the sides will find concrete and mutually beneficial solutions to existing problems. The agreements signed today, he said, will become important landmarks on the road "to peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, goodwill, and beneficial cooperation." On the matter of reforms being conducted in Russia and Poland, he noted that both states can "support each other, strengthen cooperation, and restore economic ties based on new principles and reciprocity."

Troop Withdrawal Treaty Signed

LD2205123192 Warsaw Radio Warszawa Network in Polish 1140 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski and Russia's Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin have signed a treaty on the withdrawal of Russian armed forces from Poland. The signing ceremony was delayed because certain points contained in this document required additional talks by the Polish and Russian presidents.

The issue concerned the deployment of Russian communications battalions, which would ensure communication links between Moscow and units of the Russian armed forces stationed on the territory of the former GDR. The Polish side proposed that these units be grouped in two garrisons on Polish territory; the Russian delegation, on the other hand, demanded that the communications units be more widely spread for technical reasons.

Foreign Ministry Representative Gives Briefing

OW2005171092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 20 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry announced a protest to Latvia after armed individuals attacked a group of unarmed Russian soldiers who were repairing a cable. As a result of the May 14 incident ensign Nikolay Pylayev was wounded.

At a briefing Wednesday the Director of the Information and Press Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry Sergey Yastrzhembskiy said that Latvia will be held responsible for these incidents.

The Russian Foreign Ministry also expressed concern over the worsening situation in the Dniester region. The Ministry's statement calls attention to the escalation of military operations near the Dubossar hydroelectric station, which could wreak havoc on the ecology of the region. The Russian Foreign Ministry called on the conflicting sides to observe the cease-fire agreement developed April 6 by representatives from Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania, and mutual withdrawal of military units.

The Foreign Ministry representative said regarding Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's interrupted visit to Yugoslavia that this was the result of a demand by the Russian Parliament who felt the minister should participate in the planning session for the discussion of the 1954 Crimean Acts.

'Statement' on Attack in Latvia

PM2105135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

["Statement By the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Latvian Embassy"]

[Text] On 20 May, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered a resolute protest to the Latvian Republic Embassy over an attack involving the use of firearms carried out by Latvian militiamen on 14 May this year on a group of unarmed Russian servicemen carrying out regulation work on the border troops' cable communication lines in the suburbs of the city of Riga.

As a result of this provocation, the statement says, Private N. Pylayev was wounded in the leg, and the other servicemen were detained under the threat of the use of arms, and were released only after a protest delivered by the border district command authorities to the leadership of the Latvian Republic militia detachments.

The Ministry warns that henceforth the Latvian side will carry full responsibility for the possible consequences of such actions. The ministry also demands a thorough investigation of the crime against the servicemen perpetrated by the Latvian militiamen 14 May, punishment of the offenders, and compensation for the material and psychological damage caused to Russian citizen Nikolay Vladimirovich Pylayev, born 1973, and to the troops' property.

The ministry will expect news of measures adopted from the Lativian Embassy within 10 days.

Ministry Issues Statement on Azerbaijan Events

LD2005161592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1526 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (ITAR-TASS)—The latest events in Azerbaijan have been greeted with great alarm and concern in Russia. This is written in a statement by the Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs circulated in Moscow today.

The Russian foreign policy department expresses its satisfaction at the efforts undertaken in Azerbaijan "to reinforce the tendency toward a reduction in the level of confrontation." "The Russian leadership is counting upon the political wisdom and moderation of future actions by the Azerbaijani authorities," the document stresses.

The Russian Federation's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the hope that political events in Azerbaijan will develop along the track of democracy, will be civilized, and will adhere to the constitutional process.

The statement says: "The actions of Russia are guided by the desire to increase efforts in order to develop equal relations and mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration with the Republic of Azerbaijan, and it aims to develop and strengthen the treaty based and legal inter-state relations."

Ministry Denies Interference in Azerbaijan

OW2205122792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Friday, the head of the Russian Security Ministry's Center of Public relations Andrey Chernenko refuted the information published May 22 by the "Independent Newspaper" and entitled "Confession of a Murderer".

Having mentioned the programmes of the Baku radio, the author of the article reports that the Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov and the Director of the Russian outer intelligence service Yevgeny Primakov gave secret instructions to the Azeri Deputy Minister of National Security R. Sadykhov [all names and titles as received]. It was done to "reanimate the ruling of Mutalibov".

The head of the center declared that "the Russian services had no contacts of such kind with Sadykhov, and with the Azeri special services as well". Chernenko noted that the information of the Baku radio spread by the Russian mass media has a provocative character and, according to him, "has a goal to worsen the situation in the region which is rather tense".

Ministry Regrets Fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh

LD2205094292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 22 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed deep regret and serious anxiety in connection with the latest events around the town of Lachin and Nakhichevan, which have brought new human casualties, an escalation of combat activity, and caused additional tension in the entire region.

The Foreign Affairs Ministry statement, which was circulated today, notes that no kind of attendant circumstances gives a state the right to resort to annexing somebody else's territory. Nobody can count on support from Russia for such illegal actions. In this connection, one cannot agree with the seizure of Lachin or, if it really happened, with the attacks by armed formations on areas of Nakhichevan that border with Armenia.

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs calls, in the most resolute fashion, on all sides involved in the fighting to cease fire, to sit down at the negotiating table, and to use the unexploited potential of various peace-making missions that are promoting a political settlement of the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia's Foreign Affairs Ministry once again states its readiness to offer its services as a mediator to halt the bloodshed and seek a political solution to the crisis.

Turkey's Demirel To Sign Bilateral Accord

OW2205122992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1138 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Well-informed sources in the Russian Foreign Ministry told IF [INTERFAX] that Russia and Turkey were expected to sign a bilateral agreement regulating their relations during a visit to Moscow by the Turkish Premier, Mr Suleyman Demirel, due to arrive on Monday [25 May].

One of the ministry experts described the paper as a basic document freed of ideologies and misunderstanding of the past but in the spirit of today's political realities. He said the paper stated a new quality in bilateral relations, including a provision saying that from now on, Russia and Turkey would consider each other as friendly states.

Grachev Remarks on Kurils Cause 'Mild Shock'

PM2205111892 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 May 92 Morning Edition p 6

[Sergey Agafonov report: "Mild Shock in Tokyo After Russian Defense Minister's Statement"]

[Text] Tokyo—To all appearances, the territorial problem in relations with Japan is likely to mark new Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's debut in contacts with the "outside world." In any case, the fuss in Tokyo following his remarks at the Moscow meeting on questions of the economic and social protection of servicemen has every chance of developing into diplomatic tough talking.

The Japanese concern was prompted by the section of the Russian minister's remarks dealing with the question of the stationing of army subunits in the South Kurils. If the account of this passage transmitted by the mass media is true, Pavel Grachev stated that the troops will not be withdrawn from those islands to which Japan lays claim. "Concern," however, is not quite the right word to convey the state in which the Japanese Foreign Ministry and other important departments now are—it shows all the signs of a state of mild shock.

The Japanese were perplexed first and foremost because only two weeks ago Yeltsin was saying something entirely different—in a talk with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe he promised to withdraw all troops from the disputed territories in one to two years, leaving only border guards. In addition, Yeltsin then reaffirmed his commitment to the so-called "five-point plan" for solving the territorial problem, in which point three is specifically the demilitarization of the four islands. In addition, Russian Minister Kozyrev informed the Japanese side in March that troops in the disputed territories have already been reduced by 30 percent as a "goodwill" gesture.

After carrying out the simple operation of comparing the minutes of the talks with the Russian president with the text of the Russian defense minister's statement, Tokyo came to the conclusion that one frankly contradicts the other. After that, as the KYODO agency writes, Japanese diplomats in Moscow were urgently tasked with checking by all available channels the correctness of the version of Grachev's words transmitted via TASS and INTERFAX, while the Japanese Foreign Ministry submitted an official inquiry concerning the statement by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's military department. The Japanese side, as the mass media reports, will determine its response to the "incident" once the results of the check and the answer to the inquiry have been received.

The most interesting point, however, is that no one can predict what those results will be and what the answer will contain. If only because in our confused times, in our young democratic homeland, many of the traditional diplomatic attributes have been more or less eroded, among them the very concept of an "official position."

Incidentally, another Russian official also spoke on this same territorial question while on a visit to Tokyo—Vladimir Ispravnikov, head of a parliamentary delegation and chairman of the Supreme Economic Council. In an interview for KYODO, our deputy stated that the territorial question will, he hopes, be resolved during Yeltsin's forthcoming visit to Japan this fall.

Another Russian guest is arriving in Japan today for a symposium—Economics Minister Nechayev. Most likely he too will be unable to avoid questions on the territorial problem. How will he reply? Pluralism, after all....

Legislator Comments on Kurils in Tokyo

LD2205065292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0424 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Vasiliy Golovin and Vladimir Kuchko]

[Excerpts] Tokyo, 22 May—At present, the Russian parliament will not ratify an agreement handing any of the islands of the Kuril archipelago to Japan, and this reality should be clearly understood in Tokyo. This was stated in an interview with ITAR-TASS by Oleg Rumyantsev, member of the Presidium of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and executive secretary of the Constitutional Commission. He is currently in Japan as a member of a Russian parliamentary delegation.

He said that the group of moderate reformers in the Supreme Soviet which he represents would propose trying to resolve the issue during further talks on the disputed islands of Habomai and Shikotan; the 1956 joint declaration envisages the handover of these islands to Japan after a peace treaty is signed. Rumyantsev commented that in this day and age, the document should again be debated by the Russian parliament and not just confirmed automatically. At the same time, he categorically rejected even the possibility of transferring the largest and most populated of the islands, Iturup and Kunashir—also claimed by Japan—to Tokyo.

According to Rumyantsev, the more conservative elements of parliament, in particular the "Rossiya" group, will not even accept that Shikotan and Habomai are disputed. In the Supreme Soviet there is also what Rumyantsev termed a "dwindling" group of radicals who take the view that "we should give back that which is not ours." That said, he believes that the majority take an approach in which it is recognized that there is a problem with Shikotan and Habomai and movement toward a gradual and long-term discussion to seek a mutually acceptable outcome. This is not an issue that can be solved today, tomorrow, or even the day after that; Tokyo should recognize and understand that, Rumyantsev stressed. [passage omitted]

Trying to force a solution to the South Kurils issue, he continued, will only worsen relations with Japan. It will only foster the feeling in Russia that, in a time of weakness and crisis, "we have been wrung out, tricked, and humiliated." Such sentiments would fuel demands for revenge and could help ultraconservative forces gain ground, thus creating a constant source of friction in relations with Tokyo. Oleg Rumyantsev recalled the most important—in his words—provision of domestic legislation: Article 8 of the Russian Federation's declaration of state sovereignty, which says that its borders may not be amended without the consent of the people expressed through a referendum.

Further on U.S. Sanctions on Rocket Deal

U.S. Ambassador Comments on Relations

924C1508A Moscow TRUD in Russian 19 May 92 p 3

[Article by Anatoliy Repin: "Could It Not Be Done More Calmly?"]

[Text] Russian-American relations have come up against a serious test in connection with the response in the United States to the agreement between Moscow and Delhi on the sale of cryogenic engines for Indian rockets. In the wake of the imposition of two-year sanctions against Glavkosmos [Main Administration for the Development and Use of Space Technology for the National Economy and Science], Washington has been querying the multibillion package of American credit for Russia's reforms. In any event, this is the import of Senator Biden's amendment to the Russian aid bill. As is clear from a statement by State Department Spokesman M. Tutwiler, the administration has no "objection in principle" to such an amendment.

I will not go into the information, already well-known to many readers, on the nonmilitary nature of the Russian-Indian engines deal, world market competition, space technology and so forth, although it is such considerations which would seem most pertinent. However, the United States is, as we can see, raising the level of the dispute higher—from a response directed against one department (Glavkosmos) to interstate relations.

How can we fail to recall here, words spoken by R. Strauss, ambassador of the United States to Russia, in an interview with our newspaper (TRUD for 1 May 1992): "I hope that we will have the same relations as with Britain or France. The United States has disagreements with them on a dozen problems, but this is not reflected in our friendship. I would like American-Russian relations to have a general basis in principle, and we could then argue over questions of the balance of trade, concerning who sells what and so forth."

Now is the very time to confirm such a position in practice, account being taken of the interests of both parties and, what is most important, with no disruption of the basis in principle of the equal cooperation of Russia and the United States in the name of democracy and international stability.

Space Agency Defends Deal

OW2105174692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The contract between India and the Russian Space Agency (Glavkosmos) on installing cryogenic

boosters on Indian rockets does not go against international documents on the non-proliferation of rocket technology, Chief of a Glavkosmos department Nikolay Semyonov told IF [INTERFAX]. He said that the contract will withstand the most scrupulous international examination.

Nikolay Semyonov said that cryogenic boosters cannot be used for military purposes because it takes three months to prepare them for launching.

Besides Glavkosmos, the right to secure such a contract with India was contested by the American company Pratt & Witney and by the French Societe Europenne de Propulsion. India has chosen cheaper Russian technology, whose cost went down considerably from the 8 billion rupees asked initially.

The American side did not warn the Glavkosmos competitors that they could violate the regime of control over the non-proliferation of nuclear technology, said Nikolay Semyonov.

U.S., Russian Naval Experts Meet in Moscow

LD2205083792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1417 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunayskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—The question of monitoring the fulfillment of the 1972 Soviet-American agreement "on the prevention of incidents on the high seas and in the air space over it" will be the focus of the annual meeting of Russian and American naval experts, which began here today. This time it is a jubilee meeting, marking the 20th anniversary of the agreement.

On the motion of the CIS Naval Command, the agenda of the meeting includes the problem of preventing incidents with submarines on combat training grounds. This is explained by the fact that there were 10 collisions of Soviet and foreign submarines on the training grounds of the Northern and Pacific Fleets over the past 25 years. In nine cases Soviet or CIS submarines collided with U.S. submarines at the time when the Americans were shadowing our vessels. The latest such collision occurred in the Barents Sea between a "Sierra" class CIS submarine and the American submarine "Baton Rouge".

The joint work of Russian and American naval experts will continue until May 26.

'Great Concern' Over Developments in Thailand

LD2105121992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1038 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—We are following the developments in Bangkok with great concern and are worried by the situation taking shape there, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman told TASS on Thursday.

The developments in Thailand are internal affairs of the country, however we do not have double standards in our approach to democracy and human rights, no matter which country it concerns. Press reports about use of arms and casualties cannot but cause regret, the spokesman said.

We hope common sense will prevail in Bangkok and ways for a peaceful settlement of the problems will be found, he added.

Russian-American Press Center to Open

LD2105215592 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1833 GMT 20 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow May 20 TASS—A presentation ceremony of the Russian-American Information Press Center, which is intended to facilitate the activities of news media, was held in Moscow today. The center is equipped on modern lines—it has a computer library connected with automated data bases of the U.S. and West Europe which contain texts of thousands of newspapers and much other helpful information.

Among founders of the center are the center on problems of war, peace and news media of the journalist department of the New York University, the Institute of the United States and Canada of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and a joint venture "Sona Ventures Ltd." the V. Alton Jones Foundation, the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. Macarthur foundation rendered financial aid to the creation of this press center.

In June the press center will begin to hold topical briefings, seminars, conferences. The center will start supplying journalists with the necessary information from September. It is also planned to conduct monthly briefings for leaders of little-known public and political movements and Western scientists on problems of a market economy and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Russian-American Information Press Center will also publish reference books and bulletins on forthcoming events.

Rutskoy's CIS Role Contrasted With Kozyrev's

MK2205084792 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 92 p 2

[Yevgeniy Krasnikov report: "Diplomacy: Aleksandr Rutskoy Has His Own Foreign Policy. At Least With Regard to CIS Countries"]

[Text] It has become quite obvious of late that Russia has two foreign policies vis-a-vis the CIS. The first—a "mild-mannered" policy—impresses Western statesmen and is associated with the name of Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry. It is based on the following premises: The Union has collapsed once and for all, the former republics have become subjects of international

law, and in order to enter the "civilized community" Russia must develop its relations with these republics as it does with foreign states. As for the actions of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic and the Dniester region, until recently, the Foreign Ministry was inclined to attribute them to inflammatory actions on the part of Communists.

The "tough" foreign policy toward CIS countries—a policy that arouses Russian patriots' sympathies—is associated with Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. In his opinion, the Union must be revived (in one form or another) and, if that is impossible, Russia should at least be made a strong power and stop economic subsidies to other CIS countries. The Russian-speaking population and the Cossacks are "our people and we must help them." So petitioners from the Baltic, Moldova, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan are fairly frequent guests at the vice president's office.

Since the beginning of the year, Rutskoy has published a series of articles in which he has set out with utter frankness, his position as a state patriot. Thus in his latest article in ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA ("Blindness" of 20 May) the vice president sharply condemned the Ukrainian politicians laying claim to the "Russian Black Sea Fleet, the Russian Army, and the Russian Crimea."

Whereas Andrey Kozyrev is quite entitled to deal with foreign policy because of the post that he holds, the vice president's foreign policy functions seem less clear.

The special role played by Aleksandr Rutskoy made itself felt during his first trips abroad—to Ukraine and Kazakhstan. He was seen there not only as the Russian diplomatic service's envoy. The friendly relations that he developed with Gorbachev during the latter's release from "imprisonment in Foros" and, lastly, Rutskoy's well known views defending the need to preserve a unified state (something which was, incidentally, also reflected in the communique on the results of the visit to Kazakhstan) meant that the vice president was viewed during his visit to these two republics as a spokesman for Union diplomacy. It is no accident that it was then that Rutskoy became friendly with another statesman—Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The multifaceted nature of Russia's diplomacy was revealed particularly clearly over the events in Chechnya. Rutskoy was already working out schedules for transporters to take military units to Groznyy when suddenly the presidential decree introducing a state of emergency was revoked and the vice president appeared in public eyes as a bad counselor who had diverted the president from the correct path. On the other hand the Russian president's prestige was totally unaffected.

Yeltsin also displayed a "diplomatic approach" with regard to the Dniester problem. First Aleksandr Rutskoy was sent to Tiraspol with written authority from Yeltsin, saying "do everthing as we agreed."

So Rutskoy did indeed "do everything." He made fine-sounding speeches at rallies and officers' assemblies expressing full solidarity with the Dniester people's struggle and demanding that Russia recognize the Dniester Republic and that the 14th Army guarantee its borders. The upshot was that the Moldovan side was alarmed and irritated and President Snegur refused to meet with Rutskoy.

In the aircraft en route to Moscow, however, Rutskoy unexpectedly found out that the mild-mannered, courteous Andrey Kozyrev had been sent to Moldova in his wake and would now hold "real talks." Rutskoy immediately tried to reach Yeltsin on the telephone and persuade him to cancel this visit or at least have not only Russia, Moldova, and Romania as parties to the talks, but also the people of the Dniester region whom the vice president had just visited.

Yeltsin was not to be persuaded, but after hearing Rutskoy's report, the president gave him an opportunity to address the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies and allowed his staff to organize a display there of material based on the results of the visit to the Diester region.

As you know, Rutskoy's speech at the Congress was successful, but Kozyrev managed to vindicate and defend himself. "Rutskoy's supporters" even bet a case of cognac among themselves that the head of the Foreign Ministry would be removed in April, but they were not to drink to the health of a new Russian foreign minister.

Obviously Yeltsin kept Kozyrev because he wants to have a convenient opportunity in the future to alternate "mild-mannered" and "tough" foreign ministers, thus giving political scientists an excellent opportunity to again discuss the complex clashes and disagreements within the Russian leadership.

Rutskoy Addresses International Security Forum

PM2105140792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 May 92 p 3

[Major M. Pogorelyy report: "Russia Remains a Strategic Factor"]

[Text] Years, decades, and centuries pass. The situation on the planet changes, sometimes in a most radical way, but Russia was and still is a very important factor in world politics—be it under the conditions of an empire, a Soviet republic, or a democratic society. This was the chief idea in the introductory speech of Aleksey Podberezkin, president of the Russian-American University, who opened the international conference "International Security Under Conditions of Radical Changes in the World. Military-Political Aspects." Dozens of scientists, publicists, and researchers gathered for this forum in the Moscow premises of the Institute of Military History to discuss problems of security, to analyze its constituent factors, and to determine ways to strengthen it.

The central event on the first day of the conference was undoubtedly the speech by Aviation Major General Aleksandr Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation. Setting the tone of the subsequent debate, he singled out the chief idea that collective, international security depends to a considerable degree on the individual, internal security of each of the states and on the presence or absence of economic, political, and military ties among them.

Analyzing the situation in Russia from this viewpoint, the vice president persistently emphasized the need to strengthen democracy, which denotes compliance with the law that is obligatory for all, since the president, the worker, the physician, and the soldier are all equal before the law. According to Aleksandr Rutskoy, social processes, particularly such complex ones as the transition to a new socioeconomic formation, must be controlled. It is necessary, he declared, to define the priorities in the state's sociopolitical and legal activity—and to concentrate all efforts on them. These are land reform, industrial reform, and financial stabilization. We must not "enter the market" without grounds. The reason for the present crisis of the reforms in Russia ("and this is my stable position," the vice president emphasized) is the liberalization of prices while preserving 99 percent of state ownership—which is the cause of the production slump in industry and agriculture, of hyperinflation, and of the crisis in the political leadership.

A still greater danger to the security of the country and the entire world community, Aleksandr Rutskoy declared, is posed by the so-called local conflicts which today have a considerable part of the former USSR in their grip: Moldova, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, etc. Thousands of people are already dying in these—to put it mildly—conflicts, and the majority of them are civilians, women, children, old people.... The culture of peoples is being destroyed and the economic strength of the region is being sapped. There is just one word for what is happening—banditry. Maybe this is not diplomatic, but, on the other hand, it accurately expresses the essence of the actions of certain political leaders obsessed by aspirations of national-careerism. It is easiest of all to accede to power and to hang on to the helm on this wave, on the soil of hatred for other people. However, this is very far removed from a civilized approach to resolving ethnic problems.

Can the United Nations and the world community look calmly upon all this?—Rutskoy asks. For a response to situations where people are oppressed and suppressed just for being Russian is not interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states. It is a counter to veritable genocide. Otherwise, silent consent serves to encourage such political leaders whose actions or inaction have led and are leading to the emergence of "local conflicts." They—these figures—would have to answer to the court of the world public, the vice president believes.

The most important conclusion that must be drawn today is that we are all, first of all, people and only then, representatives of various nationalities, parties, or states. We all live under the same God. Security can only be common to all. Russia unequivocally intends, Aleksandr Rutskoy pointed out in conclusion, to take the path away from strengthening individual security toward collective security, in order to enter the new, 21st century with clean hands and pure thoughts. For something very important has already been done. The world has gotten away from being split in two (East-West, socialism-capitalism), away from confrontation.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin sent a greetings message to the participants in the conference, which is continuing its work.

Minister Aven Describes Foreign Trade Measures

OW1505141692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 15 May 92

[Interview with Petr Aven, minister of foreign economic relations, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from "Nation & Society"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Recently, Russia's Government designated the new measures it is going to take in order to promote the efficiency of foreign trade. IF [INTERFAX] correspondent met with Petr Aven, the minister of external relations of Russian Federation, asking him to comment on the government's future steps in this area.

Corr.: The recent session of Russia's Cabinet of Ministers prefaced the introduction of import tariffs. What is, essentially, the purpose of this measure?

Peter Aven: By this August, all the articles of Russian export will be liable to tariffs, the latter applying specifically to commercial transactions. So, Russian citizens traveling abroad don't have any reason to worry: they will not have to pay any duties for the goods they take across the border to Russia.

In all probability, the import tariffs will not exceed 5-10 per cent. Import operations may also become subject to value added taxation which presently equals 28 per cent, this measure being predicated by rapid growth of import in the recent months.

The volume of import in the first quarter of this year has risen by 13 per cent against the same period of 1991, the negative balance amounting to $2 bn [billion]. It was due to our serious concern over this trend that we were forced to resort to the import tariffs, although we realize that this measure has nothing to do with market economy.

Besides, the Government's other concern is a great variety of ways the enterprises are using to evade taxes—the so-called "formal export" being one of them. In fact, it is an operation in which a foreign company plays the role of a middleman in a purchase-and-sale transaction between two Russian companies. Based on the premise

that foreign trade transactions are not covered by the added value taxation, the "exporter" sells his goods to a foreign company, whereas the "importer" buys it without delay, all accounts being made in rubles. Some private and state enterprises resort to this stratagem to evade the excess cost of their goods originating from the added value taxes imposed by the state. As a result, the state loses great amounts of money.

Corr.: Knowledgeably, many actual exporters also resort to various tax evasion techniques when they are obliged to return to the state half of their hard currency income. What measures are you envisaging in order to restrain the exporters who are deliberately concealing their hard currency income, by way of depositing them in foreign banks?

P.A.: The Ministry of External Economic Relations have signed a contract with the Kroll Associates Inc., a reputable US company, which specializes in locating concealed money deposits. They have already initiated a search of monies which Russian entrepreneurs deposited in foreign banks in defiance of the existing law.

Since some of the enterprises thereby managed to conceal their export income which, according to law, should have been transferred to Russia within two months after the implementation of a contract, the state has forfeited $500 mn [million] in the first quarter of this year alone. Therefore, the exporters have not brought into the country their hard currency incomes amounting to $1 bn., transferring their monies to the banks in Cyprus, Panama, Malta, the Maine Islands, the Bahamas, and others which provide off-shore shelter for their clients. It is highly difficult to locate the monies, moreover, extract them from those banks. The Kroll Associates Inc., however, has amply proved its search efficiency. For instance, they have successfully located the assets deposited in foreign banks by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn or former Panamanian dictator General Noriega.

We will wage our battle with the organizations hiding away their export income using mass media. We will publish rosters of tax evaders which, it seems, will considerably undermine their prestige as business partners. In addition, the government is going to bring law suits against the companies concealing their hard currency incomes.

Corr.: Coordination of our economic reform program with the International Monetary Fund is coming to an end, its final variant due to be completed by June. Have you worked out any specific measures in the area of foreign trade to comply with this program?

P.A.: The Russian government has already presented to the IMF experts a list of priority measures aimed at ameliorating the state financial system and optimizing foreign trade. They include complete liberalization of prices for Russian and foreign goods by July 1, 1992; introduction of uniform hard-currency-to-ruble exchange rate by July 1, 1992; rejection of most export quotas and licenses. The government will retain its licensing prerogative for the export of a limited number of fuel products (natural gas, crude oil, and oil products), weapons, and the goods Russia supplies to the international market in compliance with the quotas officially established for it by international trade organizations (e.g., enriched uranium as reactor fuel).

Corr.: How has the collapse of the Soviet Union affect the volume of Russia's foreign trade?

P.A.: Russia's share in the export of the former Soviet Union comprised 80 per cent, and its import 50 per cent. Russia was the only republic in the former Soviet Union which managed to keep in the blue its foreign trade operations.

At present, however, we are in for a reverse process. At the end of 1991, we observed a dramatic decline of export. In the first quarter of 1992, the volume of Russia's export dropped by 14 per cent, as compares the same period of 1991. In the meantime, Russia's import has increased by 13 per cent against the first quarter of 1991.

There is a noticeable increase of export to Easter Europe. At the beginning of 1992, its volume doubled against that of 1991. This rise is associated with a tangible activization of trade between the former COMECON countries which, following the dissolution of this organization, factually terminated their mutual supplies which were previously regulated by various COMECON agreements.

Our export of goods to the developing countries has also increased by 2 per cent.

As regards our export structures, they require more time for adjustment. However, in the recent period we observed a encouraging tendency toward an increase of the share of machinery and equipment in Russia's export. Notably, this has come as a result of the excelling rate of export of finished goods rather than due to a decrease of export of raw materials.

Corr.: Not long ago, the Soviet Union used to spend the bulk of its hard currency income on loan interest payments and for covering its foreign debt. What share of Russia's hard currency income is spent for these purposes now?

P.A.: This year, the government expects that its foreign trade operations would produce nearly $18 bn. 80 per cent of this sum will be spent on covering our foreign debt and repaying interests on the loans. However, it seems apparent today that these objectives will not be attained. At the same time, in the context of our agreement with the IMF, Russia has been granted a delay in reimbursing its foreign debt. This considerably lowers our hard currency expenditures. At present, our country spends nearly a quarter of its hard currency income on covering its debt and repaying interests on its foreign loans. I am confident that this figure will remain unchanged in the near future.

Federation Affairs

Yeltsin Sums Up Results of Government Meeting

LD2105133592 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1148 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 21 May—The Russian Government failed today to adopt a draft state program for stabilization of the oil and gas industry complexes which was presented by Vladimir Lopukhin, minister of fuel and power engineering. Boris Yeltsin, who chaired the government's session, noted that the draft contains a number of fundamental contradictions that should be eliminated.

Summing up the results of the discussion, the Russian president stressed that draft documents on this issue are so serious they should be examined thoroughly. It is necessary, he said, to work out a production management structure for the industry, otherwise it will break down in a month or two. This will entail the collapse of the entire industry, the social sphere, and agriculture.

Speaking about the problem of the shortage of cash, which many speakers had raised sharply, Boris Yeltsin assured them that "this problem will be cleared up at the beginning of July." He added that as of 1 July Russia would have new financial opportunities: 24 billion dollars, granted by the "Seven." At the same time the president noted that 6 billion out of this sum were allocated for ruble stabilization and 2.5 billion for the repayment of the current debt. Another 4.5 billion is a "net credit, which we can take at our discretion." As for the remaining 11 billion, it is necessary to conclude agreements relating to specific programs with each of the seven states, according to the president.

As a result, a decision was adopted not to hold another session of the government with regard to the oil and gas complex, but to gather on 30 May the managers of the industry's enterprises and sign relevant government resolutions.

'Development Model' Assessed

LD2105193592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] [announcer Sergey Dorenko] At a government meeting today, [Deputy Premier] Yegor Gaydar said that the Russian economy is changing its development model. The new model will bring citizens a steady reduction in taxation, demilitarization, privatization, and a great many other useful things.

[Correspondent N. Chernyshova] All the questions that were submitted to the government meeting are exceptionally important for the country. However, the discussion of these questions did not bring any relief to the participants.

The first item on the agenda, the progress of the economic reform, was basically cut short and postponed until 15 May [as heard]. According to Gaydar, this was because a precisely calculated program, rather than general outlines and ideas, is what is needed.

The second item, the draft state program for the stabilization of the oil and gas industries, generated the greatest amount of heat. The oilmen—the minister and directors from the provinces—demanded that the industry's financial position be stabilized and they complained about non-payments and lack of ready cash. Obliquely they hinted that the consequences of a strike by the oilmen would be—quite simply—more harmful than all the strikes by miners.

Generally speaking, these speeches were reminiscent of a previous era, when somebody who was capable of extracting something from Moscow was regarded as a good boss. So, that's what they did. One of the oil kings demanded that oil prices be deregulated but all other prices be controlled. So, there you have it. Oil prices will be deregulated in July, it is said. Cash shortage problems will also be settled then.

However, in our view, the main problem lies elsewhere. The system for administering the sector has been upset. Government decisions are quite often sabotaged on the spot. State assets are, quite simply, sold off. Boris Yeltsin proposed that the adoption of the program be postponed until 30 May and some proper work be done on it, together with directors. Otherwise, the president said, we'll find ourselves in an impasse and the industries will start disintegrating.

Yet another program was discussed by the government, but by this time the head of state was no longer in attendance. This was the program for privatization. Although it was adopted in principle, many questions still remain for further elaboration.

Ulyukayev Remarks on Currency

OW2105164792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The ban on the circulation of foreign currency in Russia will be lifted July 1, Economic Adviser Aleksey Ulyukayev said at a briefing connected with the session of the Government. Ulyukayev said that Russia "is not technically prepared for the ban which was announced prematurely".

Ulyukayev said that it is very likely that there will be 2-3 months between the introduction of a floating rate for

the ruble and setting a fixed rate. Concerning the introduction of national currencies in other republics, Ulyukayev said that the government feels the ruble resources of nations introducing their own currencies must be transferred to Russia.

In response to a question from "IF" [INTERFAX], Ulyukayev said that the most favorable actions in financial policy have been achieved with Byelarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and the Baltic states.

At present more than 400 billion rubles are in circulation in the Russian Federation. In July the State Mint will issue another 128 billion rubles.

At the government session led by Russian President Boris Yeltsin three questions were raised: on the work of expanding economic reforms, on a draft of the program to stabilize the oil and gas complex, and on steps to enact the privatization program in 1992.

Initial Version of Federation Draft Law Issued

OW2105183592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "IF [INTERFAX] Presidential Bulletin" presents the initial version of the draft law on the Council of Ministers and the Government of the Russian Federation provided to "IF" by government sources.

This document establishes that the Council of Ministers—Government of the Russian Federation is the highest executive power structure of the Russian Federation—Russia. The President of the Russian Federation is chief executive of the government.

The Cabinet comprises: the Chairman of the government, his deputies, ministers of the Russian Federation, and the chairmen of the Councils of Ministers of republics in the Russian Federation.

The government is formed by the President of the Russian Federation. By representation of the chairman of the government the President can include leaders of other bodies and organization in the Cabinet.

The chairman of the government is appointed by the President and must be approved by the Russian Parliament and confirmed by a Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian Federation.

If Parliament does not approve the President's candidate to the post of chairman of the government within one month, the President has the right to appoint an acting chairman for a period of up to one year, or directly manage the government until a premier is appointed.

The government of the Russian Federation serves during the time period of the President's powers and relinquishes its power to the newly elected President, continuing to fulfill its obligations until a new Cabinet is formed.

Persons in the government are forbidded to:

be People's Deputies, hold any other paying position other than a teaching, scientific, or creative position;

accept any other position in state, commercial, or social organs or organizations. Members of the Cabinet do not have the right to engage in business activities.

Persons on the government staff, excluding the chairman, can be heard by the Parliament on matters introduced by them not more than once a year. If Parliament declares the actions of a member of the government, who has already spoken in Parliament, unsatisfactory, that individual will be removed from his post with the President's approval.

The President is the head of the executive power branch of the Russian Federation and controls the government subordinate to him. The President can chair the sessions of the Government of the Russian Federation at his own discretion. When the President is absent from the sessions a plenipotentiary representative of the head of the government will participate. The Vice President of the Russian Federation presides at the Cabinet sessions.

IF note: In the draft resolution of the activities of the Russian Cabinet from autumn of last year the statement appears that the Vice President participates in the sessions of the Government "with a voice but no vote". However, at Rutskoy's insistance the last phrase was stricken from the text.

Decisions on the resignation of the Government are made by the Congress of People's Deputies or the Parliament by expressing non-confidence in the Cabinet, or by the President with Parliament's approval. Resignation of the premier includes the resignation of the entire government staff.

The permanent government body is the Collegium of the Government of the Russian Federation comprising the chairman of the government, his deputies, the minister of finance, minister of economics, the chairman of the state committee on government property, and the director of the government system.

After the 13-page bill is completed it will be sent for the President's signature. At the 6th Congress of People's Deputies in mid April a resolution was passed requiring the Russian Parliament to pass a law on the Russian Government within three months. The Parliament is preparing its own version of the bill, and as observers say, this condition explains the heightened tempo of work on the government-presidential version.

Shokhin Remains; Khizha To Handle Staff Changes

OW2105164492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1604 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Staff changes in the Russian government will be announced in the next one to two days. All staff changes in the government will be handled by recently appointed Vice Prime Minister Georgiy Khizha, Economic Adviser to the Russian Government Aleksey Ulyukayev said at a briefing in Moscow Thursday [21 May].

Ulyukayev said that the current Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin will keep his post. He will be given responsibility for matters of social policy and foreign economic activities. The current Minister of Foreign Economic Affairs Petr Aven will remain in his post.

In connection with the assignment of new functions to Shokhin a new position of labor minister will be created. No candidate for this post has been confirmed.

Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Makharadze will be assigned regional economic regulation and matters of economic ties with foreign nations and former members of the Soviet Union. New appointments in the industrial block have not been decided.

Yeltsin Raises Welfare Payments for 1992

LD2105215792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1853 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Moscow, 21 May (ITAR-TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin today signed a decree raising welfare benefits and compensatory payments for 1992.

In order to improve the social security of families with children and other needy groups of the population, it has been decided to extend the validity of certain provisions of the decree issued by the president in March of this year, which instituted one-off grants for those groups of the public, so that payments can be made for May of the current year.

The same decree established welfare benefits and monthly compensatory payments for the same groups, payable from 1 June. The new decree increases compensatory payments to students, graduates, and other individuals working on doctorates, also from 1 June.

The Central Bank of the Russian Federation has been asked, as a priority, to make sure that cash is available to cover these welfare benefits and compensatory payments.

Further on Krasnodar Conference of Leaders

PM2105155492 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 92 First Edition p 2

[Report by correspondent Vadim Ogurtsov: "Krasnodar Conference: We Have Spent Long Enough Looking for Enemies, Now It Is Time To Get on With the Job"]

[Text] As has already been reported, a conference of leaders of Russia's soviets, at the level of chairmen of Supreme Soviets of republics within the Russian Federation, oblast and kray soviets, and autonomous oblasts and okrugs, took place in Krasnodar. We publish here some notes from the conference.

Different political forces have different attitudes to the Sixth Congress of Russian People's Deputies. However, it must be admitted that the Congress clearly revealed the deputies' encouraging desire for sensible compromises and civil accord. It alleviated the tension remaining after the signing of the Federation Treaty. It approved in principle the basic draft of the Constitution, thereby consenting to the peaceful transformation of the Congress into a single legislative body. Finally, it expressed itself quite categorically on the subject of attempts to turn the young democracy in the direction of strengthening anyone's personal power.

The president, in his concluding speech, also stressed that there are no disagreements in principle between the executive and legislative power.

However, now we are hearing about the president's northern tour, with the promise, probably wrung out of him unintentionally, to "disperse" the Congress. And we are seeing newspaper reports on the start of the campaign to collect signatures in support of a "constitutional referendum," designed to justify curtailing legislative power.

This was the background to the Krasnodar all-Russian conference of leaders of Supreme Soviets of republics within the Russian Federation and soviets of people's deputies of krays, oblasts, the autonomous oblast, autonomous okrugs, Moscow, and St. Petersburg. They met, as Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov stressed in his opening speech, not in order to level "savagely critical" accusations of disagreements against certain individuals or components and structures of power, but in order to seriously consider what help those assembled could give to the activity of the Supreme Soviet itself, the executive power, and the government in improving legislative acts in support of economic reform.

At the Congress itself the debates on economic reform were the most heated, and the same was true of the conference. The initial situation, at the end of 1991, was

basically verging on socioeconomic chaos: the disintegration of economic ties between the former Union republics and the socialist countries, the drastic reduction in imports, and consequently the collapse of the financial system.

By what means is the government, executing the will of a rather self-critical Congress, now leading Russia away from this dangerous precipice?

Simultaneously with price liberalization, it attempted to toughen up financial and budget policy and drastically reduce all expenditure and many social programs. It also introduced a new tax system which would maintain incomes even in the context of very high inflation.

"As far as initial results are concerned, our main success," Russian Economics Minister Nechayev stressed in his report, "has been to avoid the greatest danger of price liberalization—hyperinflation. And although January's fourfold or fivefold leap in prices proved much higher than expected, the growth in prices now, though still very dynamic, is nonetheless significantly lower than in the first stage of liberalization."

According to the minister's statement, the government is now more worried about the vast mutual debts among enterprises. When restrictions on wage increases were lifted, everyone rushed to increase prices "to be on the safe side," without heed for the potential of effective demand. But that demand began to decline markedly, and first the "end-product enterprises" found themselves unable to tolerate the high prices of their traditional suppliers, then a chain reaction of nonpayments swept along the entire chain of associates, to the very beginning. All the way back to iron ore and steel, so to speak.

Orenburg Oblast Soviet Chairman Grigoryev sought to persuade the minister that two problems could bring about an impasse in reform: social stratification and declining production. We all talk a great deal about market infrastructures, but we have completely forgotten the producer. I, for instance, have yet to receive an answer to this question: How do you propose to extricate the national economic complex from this impasse? It is not only the weak enterprises that are "stagnating," but also the better ones which apparently have large incomes and the ready money they need. Nonpayments in the oblast total 11 billion, and money emission has gone up from 15 percent to 51 percent. And still we keep explaining, writing...Give the regions the promised autonomy at last!

The minister's stance: Relying on the economic logic of the market, we awaited price reductions impatiently. And the first signs had apparently appeared in February, when credit policy had to be loosened and social payments increased. In short, the government apparently failed to take account of the economic instincts of the actual enterprises. So an epidemic of nonpayments hit our economy. Of course, politically, the easiest and most generally acceptable solution would be to provide credit to cover the full level of mutual debt among enterprises, were it not for the fact that a single "injection" of a huge amount of money, namely some 700 billion rubles [R], would guarantee an equally huge surge in prices and even worse mutual debts among enterprises. Therefore the government adopted an antimarket measure by signing an agreement with the Central Bank on "limited, proportional additional emission," at a very heavy 50-percent rate for enterprises. Since even this has adverse effects, it was necessary also to embark on targeted distribution of these credits, refusing those who have large stocks of finished products but are not reducing their prices, and those who have surplus materials or currency resources. It is interesting to note that despite the acute solvency crisis, officially not a single enterprise has been declared bankrupt. It is simply that the Supreme Soviet has not yet adopted an appropriate law to regulate this entire procedure. So it is a question of issuing targeted credits only to those who have an objective need for them, and simply cannot find an effective leverage point without help from the local soviets. All this has grave consequences in the social sphere.

"You say that if the regions support it, the reform will definitely work," Tyumen Oblast Soviet Chairman Ulyanov said heatedly. "But how can we support it if we don't know what the government wants? We even had to break off the session that was examining the budget. We thought we had the Federation Treaty and the law on krays and oblasts, guaranteeing the region a certain degree of autonomy...But the government stands its ground: Like it or not, you do this. What about wage hikes? In one city a gas worker gets R25,000, an oilman R15,000, and a doctor R5,000. Tell me, how can we ensure that the budget-funded sectors keep up with that kind of growth? And what about the cash problem? A man plans to go on vacation, and we can't even get together enough cash for his journey. We're sitting on a powder keg! The North will only tolerate it until the end of May, I am certain of that. And that is why, on the basis of the Federation Treaty and the Constitution, we decided to keep for ourselves the whole amount of revenue that was going to be given back to us in the form of subsidies. We have no choice!"

The minister's stance: As for the structural restructuring of the economy, the government is putting its faith mainly in conversion, giving it 42 billion in targeted credits; in the agrarian sector, which will receive 70 billion in stages; and in the development of the market infrastructure, which at the moment exists only in a very primitive form.

Given that many of the speakers touched in one way or another on the dire consequences of the promised release of prices for energy sources, they heard an encouraging comment. The government has come to the conclusion that this step would most likely only exacerbate the situation. Taking advantage of their privileged monopoly position, oil extraction and processing enterprises would push up prices to the utmost, and by the

time sales slow down and prices creep down again, during those months industry and transport could have finally collapsed. Therefore it has been decided to embark on a controlled increase in prices, at the same time abolishing the sale of 40 percent at free prices, which provoked the strongest objections among economic managers. Tariffs for the main forms of transport will increase in parallel. Strict price controls will persist only for railroads and passenger journeys on other forms of transport. Have the consequence been correctly calculated? Many of the leaders of regional soviets saw the main problem for the economy as being miscalculations by the government.

"It was lack of control that got us into the present crisis," El Minakov, chairman of the Mariy Republic Supreme Soviet, said. "The government's and president's measures to stabilize production are patently inadequate. Unsystematic actions and the absence of logic have already led to a situation where enterprises find it disadvantageous not only to increase production, but even to work at all. I cannot understand it: When there is 90 percent state ownership, how can you release prices and not regulate these processes at all?"

Whoever joined in the discussion and whatever the subject of their speech, everyone raised the problem of collaboration between the executive and legislative powers. This was particularly highlighted by Pochinok, chairman of the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Budget, Plans, Taxes, and prices; Zhukov, member of the Russian Supreme Soviet Presidium; Abdulatipov, chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet Soviet of Nationalities; and Zhdanovskiy, chairman of Krasnodar Kray Soviet. This was also the main problem raised in the speeches by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Chairman Khasbulatov.

"All the negative phenomena in our life—and here it is no use blaming any one political force—are the direct consequence of the absence of effective collaboration between the Supreme Soviet and the executive," the Supreme Soviet chairman stressed. "In the present very difficult conditions, when the state power is itself unstable, such attitudes only go to prove that we have simply not grown up to become people capable of managing a great state. In any case, I personally draw these conclusions, and accept my share of the blame.

"But there are also objective difficulties—economic and political. This must also be admitted before unthinkingly accusing the government, the Supreme Soviet, or the local authorities of a 'pro-communist or reactionary character.' Yes, of course antimarket forces will gain new recruits, if we pursue an unreasonable policy and spend our time looking for enemies. Therefore we must not only proclaim slogans about civil, ethnic, and political peace and coordinated actions by all political organizations and branches of power, but also design mechanisms together to ensure their implementation in practice.

"The Federation Treaty has been concluded, without which the Sixth Congress could have been the last Congress of Russian People's Deputies. Without the treaty, it is hard to imagine that the unity of the Russian state could have been preserved. Were it not for the treaty, we would also not have the badly needed amendments to the existing Constitution. Nor would the draft new Constitution have been approved.

"The Congress displayed a unity in the views expressed by the Supreme Soviet, the keynote speakers, and the Russian president. I therefore attach no particular significance to isolated remarks by the president," Khasbulatov said, "and in my view none of the top state officials has any aggressive intentions with regard to the implementation of the constitutional process.

"We should work together seriously to improve the approved draft Constitution, which will be published soon, and we should begin a serious discussion of its merits and shortcomings. In short, we have serious work to do."

Nechayev, Lopukhin Explain Energy Price Rises

PM2105134992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Ivan Zhagel: "Prices For Energy Resources Raised Again But Not Yet Liberated"]

[Text] On 18 May the Russian Government adopted a resolution "On the State Regulation of Prices for Energy Resources and other Types of Output and Services" in accordance with which so-called state regulated wholesale industrial prices are being introduced of 1,800-2,000 rubles [R] per tonne for oil and R1,100-1,600 per 1,000 cubic meters for gas for all consumers except the population.

Economy Minister A. Nechayev and Fuel and Energy Minister V. Lopukhin tried to explain the reasons for the latest centralized increase in prices for energy resources to journalists at a news conference on the same day. They noted that the measure is designed to maintain the normal operation of enterprises of the oil, gas, and coal industry which under the conditions of the increase in prices for raw and semifinished materials and equipment have found themselves in a very complicated position and there is a threat of a drastic curtailment of production. And that means the republic loses its main source of currency revenue, not to mention the complication of the economic situation inside the country.

According to V. Nechayev it is important to understand clearly that in this case it is a question of a kind of intermediate step and the complete liberation of prices for energy resources will be implemented in about three months. And although the retention of state control over prices and the halfheartedness of economic policy meld poorly with the program of reforms submitted to international financial organizations, the minister asserted

that the IMF, for instance, welcomed this halfhearted measure with understanding.

At any rate there is no doubt that the present Russian Government resolution to some degree rectifies its previous error. As is well known, previously enterprises were obliged to sell 60 percent of energy resources at firm prices and 40 percent at free prices. This led to various abuses, the most innocuous of which was the fact that regions with oil extraction enterprises were supplied with oil only at firm prices and others only at commercial prices.

But, of course, despite all these arguments, for the ordinary person the main thing remains the question of how will his personal prosperity be affected by the latest increase in prices for energy resources? It was stated at the news conference that there will not now be a leap in prices comparable to January's and, according to the calculations of the Ministry of the Economy, in the second half of the year they will increase by no more than 50 percent. In addition prices for gas for the population will remain unaltered and payment for electricity will double.

At the ministers' meeting with journalists many other figures were cited. For instance, in connection with the increase in the price of energy resources additional revenue into the treasury from value added tax will be about R300 billion. But the reservation was heard almost as often that all these figures are approximate and the real situation in the economy could take shape differently.

On the other hand it was asserted with absolute unanimity that enterprises would be subjected to strict sanctions for any increase in set prices. Moreover, the closer prices are to their maximum permitted limit, the greater the deductions which will have to be made into the price regulation fund which is now being organized under the Russian Ministry of Finances. This money will go to maintain those enterprises and sectors which incur the greatest losses from the increase in prices for energy resources and which are vitally important in our present situation, in particular food producers and transport.

As for Russia's sale of coal, oil, natural gas, and oil refinery products to other CIS countries, it will be on the basis of bilateral agreements, since it is virtually impossible to establish a universal regime for all. But in any case prices for energy resources with such deliveries will be close to world prices.

Gorbachev Says Yeltsin 'Distorted His Words'

OW2105203392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "Boris Yeltsin is not someone I must give my word to", ex-President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev said responding to comments by the Russian President at a news conference in Tashkent. Yeltsin told journalists that on his last day in office Gorbachev gave him his word "that he will never be involved in politics again".

Speaking Thursday [21 May] in Moscow at a general meeting of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences dedicated to the 90th anniversary of the Nobel Prize, Gorbachev said that Yeltsin distorted his words. "The question was whether I was planning to create an opposition party on the basis of the Gorbachev Fund". The ex-President said that he does not plan to create an opposition party and will support and even defend the current regime until it takes a democratic course.

Gorbachev said the main shortcoming of the current government is unpredictability. He advised the current leaders to "carefully think through and develop every decision, remain true to their promises, trust the people, and "cultivate" the trust of the world community in the nation".

Petition Queries CPSU Place, Yeltsin Decrees

OW2105171492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Secretary of the Constitutional Commission, Russian People's Deputy Oleg Rumyantsev sent to the Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation a petition proposing to recognize an anti-constitutional character of the CPSU and legitimate acts of the state's head in respect to the disbandment and confiscation of the party's property. [sentence as received] The press service of the court reported to "IF" [INTERFAX] that the petition is taken for an investigation.

The Chairman of the Consitutional Commission is known to be Boris Yeltsin according to the resolution of the People's Deputies' Congress.

The session of the Constitutional Court will take place May 26 which will investigate the question on the correspondence of President Yeltsin's Decrees on the disbandment of the CPSU and confiscation of its property.

The statement of a People's Deputies' group on whose request the Constitutional court will gather May 26 contains a question whether the President violated the Basic Law adopting the Decrees on the CPSU.

According to two professors-jurists who participated as experts in this court's investigations under the present Basic Law the President's Decrees are non-constitutional as the head of the state has no authorities to intervene into the activity of the political parties and social organizations.

At the same time according to some sources close to the Constitutional Court, its members clearly understand that the decision on recognition the decrees as non-constitutional and consequently the return of the legal

relations till the moment of their adoption is practically impossible at the present conditions.

Independent experts believe that Oleg Rumyantsev's appeal allows to find a way out of the dead end. If the CPSU is recognized as an anti-constitutional organization then the rightfulness of the essence of Yeltsin's Decrees will be confirmed. Consequently, the question on the CPSU property's return will be abolished as it has already new owners.

Constitutional Court Rules Against Parliament

MK2105085192 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 May 92 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Katanyan: "Court Investigates"]

[Text] The Russian Constitutional Court yesterday considered a petition from a group of Russian parliamentarians that it verify the constitutionality of the Russian Supreme Soviet's interpretation of Article 183 of the Russian Constitution. The petitioner's representatives voiced the conviction that the status of Moscow—capital of the Russian Federation—and the structure of the city's organs of power and government should be established by a special law (or set of laws), while the parliament, citing the law on local self-government, has effectively exceeded its powers since it has thus made changes to the text of the present Constitution. The respondent—members of the Supreme Soviet Committee for Questions of Soviets' Work—upheld another view. They think that the Supreme Soviet only concretized the Constitution's vague reference to a legislative act regulating the situation in Moscow. This was essential at a time when there was effectively no law operating in Moscow.

The long-standing dispute between City Hall and the Moscow Soviet, whose work is guided by different, often contradictory normative acts, can however be clearly traced behind the pro forma legal clash. The capital's administration still hopes that a special law on the status of Moscow will legalize its powers. The city soviet is quite happy with the present legislation, which enshrines the right of representative organs of power to independently decide the question of the local administration's structure and coordinate appointments to key posts in the capital's government. It is no coincidence that the petitioner's position was backed by Yuriy Luzhkov, vice mayor of Moscow, while Nikolay Gonchar, chairman of the Moscow Soviet, backed the respondent.

Nor did independent experts reach unanimity. The only thing on which the two sides agreed was the need for a new Russian Constitution to be adopted more rapidly, a constitution wherein the various articles would not only not contradict one another, but would not contravene common sense either.

The Constitutional Court acknowledged that the Supreme Soviet resolution fails to conform with the Russian Constitution although the judges also disagreed among themselves: Eight voted in favor of this, three opposed. Constitutional Court Judge V. Oleynik told KURANTY's correspondent that the judges thought that the parliament had changed the sense of the Fundamental Law rather than interpreting it.

Trade Unions Suggest Economic 'Adjustments'

LD2105175492 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1454 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] St. Petersburg, 21 May—The Council of Russia's Federation of Independent Trade Unions has called for direct talks to be held with the government without delay on adjustments to the program of economic reform and social security. The call came at the federation's plenum, which ended today in St. Petersburg. Among other things, the trade union federation wants the present cabinet to normalize financial payments, to stabilize the work of industry, and to revise the tax system.

The plenum decided to form an all-Russian coordinating committee, one of whose tasks will be to poll primary trade union organizations and work collectives on their readiness to carry out a coordinated protest action campaign against the executive authorities' procrastination and inconsistency in resolving social problems.

On behalf of affiliated organizations the plenum adopted an appeal to the Russian president, parliament, and government, in which it expresses disagreement with attempts to deprive the trade unions of funds intended for social insurance. Under the present extremely difficult circumstances, the appeal says, such a step will inevitably increase tension in society.

The plenum formed a working group to prepare the draft of new guidelines for the development of the trade union movement in the Russian Federation.

Nonproduction Sectors Affected by Job Losses

OW1905210892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1903 GMT 19 May 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The threat of unemployment in Russia remains, although redundancies have not yet affected industry. According to an analysis of the labour market made by Makroekon at the beginning of the year, unemployment would jump to 2.5 mn. [million] by the end of 1992. And this is likely to be proved correct, if the government keeps to its harsh policy of reducing the state budget deficit, but is unable to create new jobs, say the experts from Makroekon, an independent analytical center which employs specialists from a number of Russian and former Union economic ministries.

Job losses in Russia for the first three months of 1992 were in excess of 4

of the total of those employed, but the greatest losses were in the non-production sectors:

	As a % of the total number of those made redundant or taking retirement
in government	28
in the construction and design organizations	24
in science	21
in trade and public catering	20

According to the forecast, another half million, or 1% of the total number employed will be made redundant in the second quarter. The largest number of redundancies in the months to come will be in the informational and computer services, in the design bureaus and among scientists.

REDUNDANCIES ARE ON THE INCREASE. There has been an increase in redundancies during the first quarter: the number of those registered in March as seeking employment was 1.2 times higher than it had been in January (over the first quarter as a whole more than 550,000 applied to change their job). At the beginning of April there were 118,400 officially registered as unemployed in Russia, but only 44% were receiving unemployment benefit.

By the end of 1992 there will be a minimum of 2.5 mn. people in need of unemployment benefit. Bearing in mind the government's determination to continue its harsh anti-inflationary policy, the only way of solving the unemployment problem could be to treble the amount paid from the wages fund into the state employment fund.

If the government strictly adheres to the demands of the International Monetary Fund and is able to bring down the state budget deficit to 3% of the gross national product, then in the fourth quarter of 1992 Russia can expect a wave of unemployment due to both state-owned enterprises and many of the new private businesses going bankrupt.

LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR RELYING ON PRIVATIZATION AND PRIVATE FARMING. The slow rate of privatization leaves little hope that the country will be able to bring unemployment down. At present only one in three of the 180,000 newly registered businesses (joint stock companies, concerns etc) is privately owned.

The private farms will also hardly be able to absorb all the excess workforce—even despite the fact that they almost doubled during the first quarter (+46,000 farms). It [is] not easy to expect a rapid increase in the number of independent farms given the current financial crisis and the widening gap between the prices for agricultural produce and those forindustrial goods following the lifting of price restrictions on energy resources.

Protection Against Unemployment Day Planned

924A1181A Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 19 May 92 p 1

[Article by A. Kapustin, chairman of the board of the All-Russian Public Unemployment Protection Fund: "Protection Against Unemployment Day"]

[Text] **Yegor Gaydar predicts that there will be 7 million unemployed by the end of 1992.**

"No, there will be twice as many as that!" asserts Anatoliy Kapustin, chairman of the board of the All-Russian Public Unemployment Protection Fund. "And none of them will be able to count on effective aid from the state employment service."

Who will help and how? In search of an answer, on 21 May for the first time Russia will hold a Protection Against Unemployment Day.

On Our Way to the Market Let Us Not Destroy People's Lives

We want to draw the attention of the people of Russia, the Supreme Soviet, the government, and the president personally to the fact that the typical Russian lack of concern and hope that things will take care of themselves, under the conditions of mass unemployment, are fraught with serious social explosions and shocks."

The suggestion to conduct a Protection Against Unemployment Day was put forth by the all-Russian Elektroprofsoyuz committee and the Ryazan oblast union of trade unions, and a joint resolution regarding this was adopted by the presidium of the FNPR [General Confederation of Trade Unions] and our fund. The idea was supported by dozens of nonstate employment organizations and certain state organs such, say, as the Department of Labor and Employment of the Moscow Government. Unfortunately, a large part of the state employment services are still living and thinking in the old way.

We are still jumping from one extreme to the other when evaluating the situation. At first we were afraid that there would be tens of millions of unemployed. But when at the end of last year throughout all of Russia there were only 61,876 unemployed registered, we calmed down. But, in the first place, this figure by no means reflects the real state of affairs, and, in the second place, with the growth of the economic crisis in the country, the unemployment problem grows larger every month. In one of his articles Ye. Gaydar predicted that by the end of 1992 there would be 7 million unemployed. But I am predicting a figure twice as great because I am taking into account all categories of residents of Russia who could be left without jobs: refugees, housewives, school and VUZ [Higher Educational Institution] graduates, members of

families of military servicemen who will have to change places of employment and residence, and so forth. None of these people will be able to count on effective assistance from the state employment service, and only a joining of forces of state, social, and the incipient commercial structures will help get the ball rolling. While proceeding toward the market we must not ruin people's lives.

Our state must encourage the activity of those social structures and individual citizens who are trying without reimbursement to protect the population from unemployment. For philanthropic funds and their enterprises and productions and for nonstate employment organizations there should be certain benefits in taxation, leasing of premises, product sales, and so forth. This is what was asked of the Government of Russia by participants in the conference of nonstate employment services held a couple of days ago in Moscow, whose initiator was the Triza employment society. By holding the Day, we hope that everyone will hear about unemployment problems. The all-Russian social fund and its local branches are organizing a collection of donations.

I call upon everyone to make their contribution to Protection Against Unemployment Day on 21 May and to the collection of funds for forthcoming measures to fight unemployment. Money may be transferred to: Operating account 700076, Moscow Credit Bank, kor/schet 116695 RKTs GU Russian Federation Moscow MFO 201791, p/i 117049.

Government, Banks Differ in Financial Assessment

OW1705175592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 17 May 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Association of Russian Banks (ARB), which includes approximately 500 commercial banks with a total collective investment fund exceeding 20 billion rubles, offered an extremely critical evaluation of the financial policies of the Russian government and the Central Bank at its second congress on May 12 and 13. In a very convincing rebuttal speech before the congress, Russian Minister of Economics Andrey Nechayev disputed that evaluation. The most curious aspect of the debate is that the two sides are relying on very different sources of information.

COMMERCIAL BANKS: STILL FEW AND FAR BETWEEN, AND WITH FEW FUNDS. ARB president Sergey Yegorov announced that there are still very few commercial banks in Russia, although the number has increased sevenfold over the past year. Almost 50% of the banks have extremely modest collective investment funds of 20 million rubles or less, and are thus constantly on the verge of bankruptcy as inflation continues to rise. He called on banks to reduce their share of centralized resources while increasing their own funds by drawing in new investors, issuing new stocks and other securities, increasing deductions on insurance and reserve funds, and stepping up business with individuals.

Participants in the congress believe that the already weak accounting system for commercial banks became even less effective after the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] introduced a new accounting system at its accounting-cashier centers, under which funds are transferred by post rather than by wire. This new system has held up payments by twenty to thirty days.

BANKERS DEMAND CHANGES. Commercial banks are clearly unsatisfied with the government's policies toward their activities. They feel that the law requiring them to keep 20% of their funds in reserve accounts with the Central Bank is far to strict, particularly with high inflation, and plan to get the rate down to five or ten percent. They also insist that centralized credit resources, which an April CBR decision fixed at 50%, be reduced to twenty or thirty percent.

The tax situation is even more pessimistic. ARB Vice president and chairman of Inkombank, one of Russia's largest commercial banks, said that the republic currently has about forty separate taxes. He feels that the most discriminatory taxes are the tax on bank income, a 30% tax on profits taken from banks' reserve funds, and a tax on banking assets, which is essentially a tax on their clients' funds.

Commercial banks see a great danger in the financial sphere because of the debts banks and businesses owe to one another. According to ARB information, by early May these mutual debts amounted to as much as 1.5 trillion rubles, with cash debts estimated at up to 60 billion rubles. They plan to request that the government increase 1992 credit issues to 1.5 trillion rubles, primarily for construction, conversion of the military industry, and privatization in the food and light industries. Commercial banks feel that credit restrictions presently imposed by the Russian government and the Central Bank will not hold back inflation, but spur it on instead as production continues to decline.

Yuriy Agapov, chairman of the board of Kredo-bank, another large Russian commercial bank, called for a ban on CBR licensing of ruble operations for foreign banks located on Russian territory (Credit Lyonnais was issued a ruble-operation license at the end of last year). He believes that powerful foreign banks "will buy up rubles and destroy Russian commercial banks." Mr. Agapov added that joint-venture banks should be established.

THE GOVERNMENT IS ON HOLD. Commenting on the bankers' proposals in an interview with INTERFAX, Mr. Nechayev said that the most critical issue was the problem of mutual debts, which, according to his information, amounted to approximately 700 billion rubles in early April. Noting that the rate of growth of mutual non-payments had slowed, the minister said that the Russian government was not planning to credit the entire sum of mutual debts between businesses and commercial banks.

Mr. Nechayev said that such a crediting system would generate a huge increase in prices which would result in another credit crunch, raising the question of more credit issues. Also, if the government were to provide credits to cover the entire debt, that would be an admission that price increases were unjustified after prices were deregulated. Mr. Nechayev reported that enterprises currently have 350 billion rubles and about $2 billion in their accounts, as well as significant material resources. For these reason, he feels that the insolvency problem has been exaggerated somewhat. Mr. Nechayev said it was probable that these non-cash resources would be quickly converted into cash at a rate of three non-cash rubles to each cash ruble. Then an additional 250 billion rubles in cash would be needed, bringing money circulation to its ultimate demise.

FAVORABLE CREDITS WILL BE ISSUED SELECTIVELY. Nevertheless, Mr. Nechayev said that in addition to the 200 billion rubles that have already been allocated to pay of part of the debt, soon "the volume of centralized earmarked credits will be increased." The government feels that credit priority should be given to enterprises producing goods that will definitely be purchased, enterprises owing money to suppliers, and for new production projects.

Andrey Nechayev announced that as a whole the government supports the Central Bank's rather strict credit policy as "the only way to avoid hyperinflation during price deregulation." But the government is prepared "to soften the credit policy somewhat in order to reduce the danger of a production decline," primarily by "offering favorable credits to special consumers," including farmers. The minister also emphasized that there would not be an overall softening of credit issues, and said that the Central Bank would probably not reduce its reserve requirement from 20% to five or seven percent, as commercial banks would like.

INTEREST RATES ON CENTRALIZED CREDIT RESOURCES SHOULD NOT BE LOWER THAN THE INFLATION RATE. The government also favors the Central Bank's decision to increase interest rates on centralized credit resources to 50%. Mr. Nechayev is convinced that the rate should not be lower than the inflation rate in a normal economy. According to the minister, at the end of the year overall inflation in Russia will be about 100%. Therefore a 50% interest rate steeply increases demand for credit and worsens the solvency crisis. He noted, however, that the government had recommended that the Central Bank of Russia increase its rates gradually, rather than all at once. Mr. Nechayev does not believe that interest rates on centralized resources will increase interest rates on loans from commercial banks. In his opinion, "there is a limit on solvent demand," and that is exactly what the government and the Central Bank are counting on.

Vneshekonombank Proposes Republics Accept Debt

OW2005220192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1908 GMT 20 May 92

[From the "INTERFAX Business Report"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Vneshekonombank has made a proposal to the governments of the post-Soviet republics to recognize succession to their own share of the hard currency debts owed to their enterprises and organizations. Vneshekonombank's debts to the governments, organizations and commercial banks of the post Soviet republics (Russia excepted) amounted on March 1, 1992 to more than $1.3 bn [billion].

At the same time, information received by Interfax from authorative sources in Vneshekonombank suggests that the bank's debt to its Russian clients could be as much as $8.9 bn.

According to this information, Vneshekonombank's debt on March 1, 1992 to Russian state-owned enterprises was approximately $1.6 bn., to cooperatives and association—$0.5 bn., to foreign trade enterprises that came under the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the sectoral ministries—$3.9 bn, and to joint ventures—$0.3 bn. Vneshekonombank's debt to the Russian commercial banks was approximately $1.1 bn. The table below shows the amounts of hard currency deposited in the accounts of both the clients and the correspondent banks of the former union republics at Vneshekonombank as of March 1, 1992. [figures in millions of hard currency rubles]

Russia—14309.6 in mn. [millions] of hard currency rubles
Ukraine—797.3
Byelarus—365.1
Uzbekistan—84.2
Kazakhstan—125.1
Georgia—61.3
Azerbaijan—67.9
Lithuania—116.6
Moldova—26.4
Latvia—65.8
Kyrgyzstan—4.4
Tajikistan—5.5
Armenia—56.1
Turkmenistan—286.7
Estonia—32.8
Total—16404.8

Export Quotas, Licenses To Be Auctioned

PM2105121592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 May 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "On Free Sale—Export Quotas"]

[Text] The first auction in our history involving the sale of export quotas and certificates will be held at the

Moscow Commodity Exchange 19 May. Two days later similar auctions will take place at the Metals Exchange, the Russian Timber Exchange, [Roslesbirzh], the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange, and the Nonferrous Metals Exchange.

This was announced at a news conference held at the Metals Exchange with the participation of future sellers of quotas and Mark Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Nontariff Regulation Administration.

The distribution of export licenses is one of the most lucrative and criminogenic activities in the Russian (as formerly in the Soviet) administration. But quite apart from the fact that the specter of potential bribery and large-scale corruption hovers over every decision to grant someone the right to sell something on the world market, these rights in themselves are a mighty instrument of management and control. It is in this way that the surviving ministries and their counterparts preserve their control over enterprises. Even the federal government has few means of influencing whole sectors and regions that are as effective as the issue of export licenses.

This circumstance probably explains the fact that it is proposed to offer for auction a paltry quantity of goods (1-2 percent in different categories) in comparison with the overall levels of forecast exports.

But be that as it may, the very fact that export certificates are going on open sale is in itself to a certain degree a revolution in foreign trade policy, creating a completely new background in this sphere of activity and eliminating, or reducing to a minimum, the pressure of bribe-takers on the foreign economic sphere.

However, it cannot be ruled out that even such an attractive commodity as export certificates may not find a market. It is no accident that two of the five exchanges selected by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations for these auctions conduct open sales, granting admission to all comers for rock bottom entrance prices—1000 rubles [R]. And indeed, the purchase of a license is the initial and the smallest of the expenses incurred. The reserve price of a certificate for a tonne of aluminum, for example, is R3,000. But of course, the commodity itself has still to be bought and transported, the export duty has to be paid, the commodity has to be sold as profitably as possible, then 40 percent of the hard currency earnings have to be sold at half price, then another 10 percent at market price, and only then, having paid taxes, can the profits be calculated. In the case of many commodities the fulfillment of all these procedures, even without expenditure on the purchase of quotas, makes exports an absolutely absurd, and even loss-making undertaking.

Vladimir Tokmakov, president of the Russian Timber Exchange, who took part in the news conference, said that because of the existing policy in the sphere of the taxation of exports, the sale of timber abroad has virtually been halted. Today, after fulfilling all the formalities and settling up with the state, the seller of sawn timber will be left with just over R2,000 per cubic meter (converting the hard currency earnings at the market rate), whereas here this same cubic meter can be sold, without any of these hassles, for R3,500. Thus the doubts of the Russian Timber Exchange concerning the influx of buyers and its decision to allow free access to the sales are both understandable.

The exchanges' direct revenue expected from the sale of certificates will be paltry. For example, the Metals Exchange, having obtained for sale quotas for 10,000 tonnes of aluminum, will earn 0.1 percent from the overall proceeds. And assuming that certificates will go for the reserve price of R3,000 per tonne, which is entirely probable, the exchange's income will be R30,000, minus 50 percent tax. That is no way to get rich quickly. All the same there are very many who wish to acquire the right to trade in export certificates. The question of granting the Nizhniy Novgorod Fair Joint Stock Company this right is currently being examined, as are the applications by a further 18 exchanges. Even if the first applicant is permitted to hold auctions of certificates, as is most likely in the very near future, then, according to Mark Kolesnikov, chief of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations "Licensing" Department, by no means all the rest will acquire this right. The number of sellers of certificates will be extended, but not ad infinitum.

Whence so many would-be participants in this business, with its vague prospects for large income, which, however, unites such irreconcilable competitors as the Moscow Commodities Exchange and the Russian Commodities and Raw Materials Exchange in joint preparatory work? First, participation in the sale of export rights substantially raises the seller's prestige and, notwithstanding all the doubts, offers him a theoretical chance of becoming a profitable enterprise. But the main expectation is that the owner of a certificate will come in search of the commodity against it first of all to the exchange itself, which should support exchange trade, currently experiencing not the best of times.

Undoubtedly, the winners from the auctions will be those who have already stocked up on export goods in advance and have been waiting for the chance to pick up a license. There are such people and firms, and it cannot be ruled out that they will try to speculate on the depreciation of certificates.

The question of the Russian government's declared intention to abolish all quotas and licenses from 1 July, Kolesnikov explained, is of special interest in connection with the auction sale of certificates; the licensing of the export of energy sources and certain raw material commodities will be retained at the very least until the end of this year. And, in addition, the state will never give up licensing such goods as weapons, military equipment, narcotics, and a number of other specific products. And

in general, licensing is a practice widely employed throughout the world. True, he added, in the overwhelming majority of cases, it is a question of import restrictions, whereas we license exports.

Attempts To Circumvent Cash Curbs Predicted

MK2105092792 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 20 May 92 p 5

[Article by K. Popov: "President Puts Money on Depositor?"]

[Text] The catastrophic cash shortage has forced the Russian Government to take extreme steps.

Executive organs in republics, krays, oblasts, Moscow, and St. Petersburg have been authorized to "adopt a decision on enterprises and organizations, regardless of their forms of ownership, limiting cash payments to personnel in the period May-June 1992."

The initial plan was for a sum in excess of 5,000 rubles to be deposited in all those regions, but the Russian president suggested that local administrations be given the initiative since they are better aware of the concrete cash situation in their region.

What is in store for Muscovites if this resolution is adopted? The city's government must urgently assess the situation and decide whether to freeze some wages in Moscow and, if so, what is the maximum amount we will be able to receive in the months ahead. However, as Yu. Korostelev, director of the capital's finance department, told us, the last word here rests with the Moscow branch of the Russian Central Bank, which in turn will receive instructions from its bosses. But the latter, according to unofficial information, are still only studying this question even though at first glance it will be impossible to avoid cuts in cash payments.

Korostelev himself viewed such measures with understanding because he is well aware of the global problems arising in cash circulation. But he also outlined the negative aspect of such restrictions. It is hard to imagine that there will not be some attempts to circumvent the ban.

But if the government decides to use various directives to try to prevent deviations from depositing practice, this could take up the whole period mentioned in the Yeltsin cabinet resolution.

However, it is planned to use the sums deposited to pay for municipal services so that you can pay for an apartment, telephone, electricity, etc. for a year in advance if you do not want to leave your depreciating rubles on deposit.

Policy Regarding National Minorities Viewed

LD1605014292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 15 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandras Budris]

[Text] Moscow May 15 TASS—Russian must show an example of care about national minorities, believes director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Department on International Humanitarian and Cultural Cooperation Vyacheslav Bakhmin.

Bakhmin was a speaker at today's news conference in Moscow on protection of rights of ethnic Russians in CIS states and the Baltics.

In his words, when holding negotiations with former Soviet republics, the Russian Federation must at the same time legislatively establish those rights of people coming from other states, which, in his opinion, must have ethnic Russians outside Russia.

Bakhmin noted 25 million people appeared to be residents of foreign states after the Soviet Union disintegrated. Russia is not ready to invest in programs of aid to compatriots, including those who preferred to become refugees, noted the officials. At the same time, the Russian Federation cannot put up with the violation of rights of ethnic Russians, said Bakhmin.

The problem is special since new national legislations do not run counter to the international law. However, "the international law could not envisage many unique situations", said Bakhmin.

He stressed only political measures can be used to solve these issues. In his words, pressure will lead to deterioration of the position of ethnic Russians. Thus, negotiations are underway with the Baltic and CIS states on the whole range of issues. Their possibilities have not been exhausted, believes Bakhmin.

'Unresolved' Problems in Military Doctrine Eyed

PM2105084592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Mar 92 p 2

[Article by A. Savelyev, vice president of the Institute of National Security and Strategic Studies, under the "Viewpoint" rubric: "Does Russia Need a 'Potential Enemy'?"]

[Text] With the announcement of the creation of the Russian Ministry of Defense and Russian Armed Forces the drafting of the military doctrine of our independent state has become part of the agenda. Such work is already under way and clearly we will soon receive the document on the basis of which, in the future all the country's military plans will be built, the training of the Armed Forces carried out, and military structures and programs for re-equipping the Army and Navy wih new types of arms and military hardware created.

However, what if the Russian military doctrine, just like the document on the military doctrine of the Warsaw Pact states published in 1987, fails to give an unambiguous answer to a number of serious questions, without the solution of which it is impossible to talk about a Russian military policy of any kind which is balanced and reflective of the objective realities.

One such question is the correlation between the defensive nature of the military doctrine and the specific means whereby combat operations are to be conducted by the Armed Forces if war is unleashed.

As is well known, the former military leadership of the USSR settled on an "intermediate" solution of the problem: Namely, by isolating two periods of potential conflict, during the first of which our side would defend itself, while during the second it would go onto a decisive counteroffensive to inflict a crushing defeat on the enemy. Setting the task in that way did not suit the opponents of the military leadership for many reasons. Although the opponents did not give, in my view, a persuasive answer at all to the question: But what are the Armed Forces to do if the aggressor seizes part of our territory and continues active offensive combat operations?

The weak doctrinal substantiation for the potential use of nuclear weapons in response to enemy nuclear attack is another unresolved problem.

It is perfectly obvious that few people believed our leaders' statements that even a limited strike against USSR territory would trigger a massive response against all targets on the territory of the "potential aggressor." And, what is more, such a strike, Former Commander in Chief of the Strategic Rocket Forces V. Tolubko said, will be carried out "immediately after the launch" of the first missiles toward our territory, regardless of where the missiles were actually launched.

A whole series of questions demanding the most serious and careful study can be cited.

For example, what is the degree of existing and potential military threat to Russia today? Who are the potential enemies? A multitude of viewpoints exist on these issues today, including the most extreme—"there are threats from every direction" and "there is no threat at all." It is not clear yet how this problem is being tackled by the drafters of the military doctrine. But I think that, politically speaking, Russia's interests would be best served by abandoning a doctrinal definition both of degree of threat and potential enemies. At the same time it is perfectly clear that when specific military organizational development and the specific military preparations of the state are involved, posing the problem in such an abstract way is unacceptable from the military standpoint.

In this context the advancement of the thesis of "potential threat" from a particular sector (West, South, East) could be a compromise solution, in my view. And it is not necessary that the degree of "probability" be defined by the military doctrine. Let the doctrine answer the question about the tasks of the Armed Forces and the means for executing them when repulsing potential aggression from the aforementioned sectors. It should be stressed that the former definitions of the type "repulsing aggression," "crushing the enemy," and so on, and so forth, are of little use when it comes to specific military questions, training programs, and plans. The new tasks should be more realistic and they should be less ruinous [razoritelnyy] and not provocative to our near and distant neighbors. At the same time these tasks should really guarantee Russia's security both from the standpoint of preventing a potential attack and eliminating its consequences by employment of the Armed Forces in their direct function.

On the basis of the requirements listed, I consider it advisable to consider a military doctrine option predicated not on single, "universal"-type approaches in setting the basic tasks, but on several concepts geared toward geographical sectors of probable threat. The military policy section of the doctrine, where the basic principles of Russia's military policy—including repudiation of the first use of nuclear weapons and the use of force to solve international disputes, commitment to the idea of disarmament, and so forth—can be declared, would bring all these concepts together. Russia's nuclear doctrine would form a separate component.

Given such an approach, the tasks set before the country's Armed Forces will be optimized according to the particular sector, since it is perfectly clear that the threat, say, from the West would be different in material terms from the threat from the East or South. From the Western sector, for example, we could come up against an enemy basically relying upon technical superiority while vulnerable at the same time from the standpoint of the "human factor"—the value of human life and the immorality of using certain arms systems, including nuclear arms, and so forth.

Exclusive reliance on defense—defense built on the principle of "islands of resistance" deep inside our own territory—could therefore be the best option for the "Western concept" of Russia's doctrine. The offensive potential of Russia's European forces here should be limited to a level which enables tactical counterstrikes to be carried out. All this will make it possible for them to have the kind of structure which cannot, in strategic terms, be regarded as offensive. At the same time it will make it possible to achieve the main objective in a potential war—stopping combat operations at the earliest possible stage and on terms favorable to Russia.

An entirely different approach should be chosen, in my opinion, for the "eastern" and "southern" strategic concepts. Here the "forward-based" defense option is clearly the most acceptable. The main forces should be based in the Russian heartland during peacetime, while being able at the same time to deploy rapidly to "forward positions" if a real threat of attack arises.

From the military technical standpoint, these concepts can be based to a large extent on the assumed technical superiority of the Russian Armed Forces over a potential aggressor. Their main task will be to prevent the enemy penetrating deep inside our territory and to "repulse" it if this is not achieved during the initial stages of the war.

All these questions naturally demand serious and comprehensive study with a wide range of specialists involved. The options for the use of nuclear weapons by Russia, the problems of strategic and tactical defense, and other problems require individual validation. One thing is clear now, however: Before seeking to confirm such an important document as military doctrine, all of its options should be examined. Here the drafters of the doctrine and the country's military-political leadership should be ready to provide substantiated answers to criticism. And the more secretive the drafting of the military doctrine is, the stronger that criticism will be.

First Army Draftees Leave; Numbers Decreased

PM2105112192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 May 92

[Video report by V. Lenskiy and V. Molchanov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer to camera] The first trainload of Russian Army draftees left Moscow today. Under President Yeltsin's decree, sailors will serve two years, soldiers 18 months, and ranks with higher education one year.

[Lenskiy over video of draft center] The 1968 Union law on universal military service is still in force in Russia. Some 7,000 Muscovites drafted this spring were able to see this for themselves. This is a much smaller number than in previous years. More than 70 percent of draft-age young men take advantage of the possibility to postpone their military service. The number of objectors has increased to 2,000 in Moscow alone. Since there is no law on alternative service in Russia for the time being, military commissariats are handing them over to the prosecutor's offices.

Army service is not just not prestigious at the moment, it is also dangerous. Last year alone 5,500 people died in the Armed Forces, and 98,700 were injured or maimed. Most of them came to grief in trouble areas.

[V. Dobrovolskiy, Moscow chief military commissar] This year we are dispatching most of the young men to various parts of Russia and to troops under Russian jurisdiction, which includes the Transcaucasus, Moldova, and the Baltic states. However, a distinctive feature is that we are dispatching them only on a purely voluntary basis and with the parents' consent.

[Lenskiy] So far there are no volunteers, despite the fact that they will be getting R1,000 per month during the first year of service, and R1,500 during the second year. True, there is still time to volunteer for service in the Caucasus or Moldova. The draft commissions are working until 1 July. [video shows draft center scenes and interview]

'Democratic Russia' Assails Central Bank Moves

MK2005161992 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 20 May 92 p 6

["Verbatim" account from BIRZHEVAYA GAZETA supplement of "Statement" by "Democratic Russia" Political Council]

[Text] The Political Council of the "Democratic Russia" movement considers it necessary to state that a catastrophic situation is currently taking shape within the Russian financial system. Payment of wages and pensions is being delayed everywhere and enterprises, commercial banks, and other organizations are on the verge of mass bankruptcy.

Under current legislation the Russian Central Bank comes under the jurisdiction of the Russian Supreme Soviet. At the same time the Russian Supreme Soviet has virtually stopped exercising control over the work of the Russian Central Bank:

—The republic's financial policy and the Russian Central Bank's responsibility for the functions entrusted to it have not been defined;

—Russian Central Bank reports on the results for 1991 and the first quarter of 1992 have not been submitted to the Supreme Soviet or published;

—The Supreme Soviet is not controlling the increase in the money supply, which may cause a wave of hyperinflation and an even greater fall in the population's incomes.

A situation has developed whereby the Russian Government is largely pursuing the policy of economic reform in the absence of an appropriate financial policy coordinated with this reform on the part of the Supreme Soviet and the Central Bank under its jurisdiction.

The tight restrictions imposed by the Russian Central Bank on the activity of commercial banks is causing the banking system to contract and be destroyed, commercial banks to be eliminated, and a highly monopolized, bureaucratic financial system to form.

The unwieldy supercentralized system for trading operations, along with the considerable, unwarranted delays in receipt of payments into enterprises' accounts is causing enterprises operating at a profit to end up bankrupt and incapable of paying workers' wages and continuing to operate.

Thus at present the Russian Central Bank's actions are effectively preventing the Russian Government's economic reform from being put into practice.

If the above policy on the part of the Russian Central Bank is not corrected immediately, this will inevitably bring about the collapse of the republic's financial system in the near future, block economic transformations, and cause a social explosion and the coming to power of the forces that led the offensive against reform at the Sixth Congress. Moreover, the president and the Russian Government will bear full responsibility for the prevailing situation while the Central Bank and the Supreme Soviet, who are to all intents and purpose the real culprits, remain aloof.

In this connection the Political Council of the "Democratic Russia" movement considers the following necessary:

1. The removal of the Russian Central Bank from the direct jurisdiction of the Supreme Soviet.

2. The immediate resignation of the board of the Central Bank, and the election of a new chairman and board.

3. The Russian Government must submit forthwith a program for the reform of the credit and finance and banking system, as well as draft laws on bankruptcies and insuring deposits, which should have been adopted and enacted before prices of energy sources were fully liberalized.

'National Revival' To Aid Dniester Republic

LD2005214192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1102 GMT 19 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 19 TASS—"The main preoccupation of the Russian National Revival Party (RNRP) now is to render aid to the Dniester Moldavan Republic," ITAR-TASS was told by Valeriy Ivanov, chairman of the RNRP, which was set up a few months ago as a national-patriotic political organisation.

The RNRP has joined the "Russian National Committee for the Defence of the Dniester Republic", which is collecting money to help the latter and is recruiting a "Russian voluntary corps named after Minin and Pozharskiy". "We don't pursue the purpose of creating any armed formations," Ivanov said. "We merely plan to enlist Russian volunteers and to place them at the disposal of Dniester authorities".

In addition to the Dniester area, the rights of Russians on the territory of the former USSR, in his opinion, are most of all violated in Latvia, where the party is also "conducting definite work".

According to the RNRP leader, the party is categorically opposed to any forms of chauvinism or anti-semitism. It has no contacts with the "Pamyat" (Memory) organisation. It is a member of all the major associations of national-patriotic forces—the Russian People's Assembly, the Russian National Assembly, and the Coordinational Council of National Patriotic Forces. The RNRP calls for the "resignation of Russia's president and his entire team".

"The present Russian leadership," Ivanov believes, "cringes before the West" and contributes to the "economic plunder of Russia by foreigners".

Ivanov claims that the party already has a membership of 700 people. Three hundred more are about to join it. But the "patriotic" leader is not upset by such small numbers. He said the process of setting up RNRP party organisations was under way throughout Russia. It is on the order of the day "to set up professional, spiritual and socio-economic structures, which are to rally Russian specialists and make them serve the purpose of reviving Russia". Most of the Russian people's hardships, Ivanov believes, are due to the fact that they have no statehood. "It is necessary," he claims, "to form a Russian subject of the Russian Federation, uniting 55 territories and regions".

Deputies Appeal for Conference Participants

PM1805092992 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 16 May 92 p 2

[Appeal from Russian Supreme Soviet deputies Ilya Konstantinov and Gennadiy Sayenko: "We Shall Take First Step out of Crisis"]

[Text] Dear compatriots!

The economic crisis which has gripped our Motherland is continuing to deepen. The senseless growth of prices has put the majority of our fellow citizens below the poverty line. The workers of many prestigious and socially useful professions highly prized in any healthy society are now having to make do with incomes which cannot even be compared to handouts to a beggar. Throughout the country a wave of protest is rising against the total impoverishment and the strike movement is expanding.

But it is becoming increasingly obvious that the government's concessions to the workers of particular sectors cannot substantially rectify the working people's position. Our entire people are becoming the victims of the advancing economic catastrophe. Even according to the assessments of the Russian Federation Supreme Economic Council experts, the continuation of Gaydar's policy **should lead by the end of the year to a halving of production, while retail prices will increase a further 10 times.** Every fourth worker may be unemployed. Under these extreme conditions the tactic of "pulling at a ragged blanket" between the workers of different sectors is inconceivable, because the collapsing economy cannot be the basis of social guarantees.

At the same time we can see how legalized shadow economy clans are flourishing, suppressing free enterprise, not scoring even criminal actions, and disregarding elementary ethical norms. With the aid of financial machinations and bribes, concealing their revenue from taxation, they are extorting fabulous sums from the national economy, transforming them into hard currency, and sending them abroad. Billions of dollars so essential for financing production and social programs are leaving the country every year. The powerlessness of the government and the law enforcement organs makes us all hostages to the mafia.

There is one way out of the situation—the coordination of the efforts of all sides interested in economic stabilization, in the consolidation of economic and financial discipline, and in reliable social guarantees. The first step on the path of consolidation should **be the holding of an all-Russian conference of representatives of enterprises, trade unions, strike committees, businessmen, and creative associations to discuss real forms and methods of struggling for the working people's rights and interests.**

We urge all those who want a dignified existence guaranteed by honest labor to take part in the work of this forum, which will be held **6 June in Moscow in the parliamentary center on Tsvetnoy Boulevard.**

Contact telephone numbers are: 205-54-09 and 205-59-92.

[Signed] On behalf of the conference organization committee, Russian Supreme Soviet Members Ilya Konstantinov and Gennadiy Sayenko.

Supreme Soviet

Joint Session Annuls 1954 Decisions on Crimea

LD2205022792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1724 GMT 21 May 92

[ITAR-TASS report from the Russian Supreme Soviet press center]

[Text] Moscow, 21 May (ITAR-TASS)—The latest joint session of the Soviet of the Republic and the Soviet of Nationalities, which was chaired by R.I. Khasbulatov, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, took place today in the Russian House of Soviets.

As the Russian Supreme Soviet press center reports, without any discussion of the agenda a resolution was adopted to move straight to the examination of the issue "On a Legal Assessment of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium Resolution of 5 February, 1954, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution of 19 February 1954, and the USSR Supreme Soviet resolution of 26 April, 1954, on removing the Crimean Oblast from the RSFSR." A.V. Kozyrev, Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs, gave a report and answered questions from the people's deputies.

S.A. Mikhailov, deputy chairman of the committee on international affairs and foreign economic ties, and E.K. Pudovkin, a member of this committee, also gave their reports. Thirty-six deputies took part in the debate.

Almost all of those who spoke agreed with the assessment that the 1954 resolutions of the supreme bodies of the RSFSR on altering the status of the Crimea were illegal, anticonstitutional, and contrary to legislative procedure.

After their discussion by a named vote (136 in favor, 18 against, and 20 abstentions), the people's deputies confirmed the resolution "On a Legal Assessment of the Resolutions of the Supreme Bodies of the RSFSR State Authorities on Altering the Status of the Crimea, Adopted in 1954." In particular, it notes that the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium resolution of 5 February 1954 "On Handing the Crimean Oblast over from the RSFSR to the Ukrainian SSR," which was adopted in violation of the Constitution (the fundamental law) of the RSFSR and legislative procedure, should be considered to have no juridical force from the moment of its adoption. However, taking into account the fact that subsequent RSFSR and USSR legislation constitutionalized the given fact, that a bilateral treaty was concluded between Ukraine and Russia on 19 November 1990 through which both sides gave up any territorial claims, and that this principle was concluded in treaties and agreements between the countries of the Commonwealth, the Supreme Soviet has acknowledged that it is essential to settle the issue in question by means of interstate talks between Russia and Ukraine with the participation of representative bodies from the Crimea and on the basis of the will of its people.

A statement by the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation explaining the motives for the approved resolution was adopted in principle (the results of the voting: 131 in favor, 6 against, and 12 abstensions) Final adoption of the document has been postponed until the next session, which is to take place 22 May.

The text of the resolution is to be published along with the Supreme Soviet statement.

Kozyrev Welcomes 'Balanced Decision'

LD2105182292 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1743 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 21 May—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev positively evaluated the Supreme Soviet's decisions on Crimea. "The parliament sat behind closed doors, he said in an interview to the ITAR-TASS correspondent, and this was correct since this is an emotional issue. I believe that a balanced decision was adopted on the whole."

In Kozyrev's view, the parliament reflected many people's conviction to the effect that the 1954 act of the

RSFSR Supreme Soviet on transferring Crimea to Ukraine was "illegal." "After that decision was adopted, the minister noted, a similar act was adopted by the USSR Supreme Soviet which, as it were, legitimized the Russian parliament's decision. However, in my view all that was senseless, since all decisions of that kind were illegal because they were adopted by the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, which was an illegal body."

Andrey Kozyrev stressed the importance of another clause in the decision adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet: "Its main point is that all issues related to Crimea should be solved by way of talks with Ukraine."

Filatov Comments

LD2205085292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0700 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] As already reported, the Russian parliament has discussed the Crimean problem at a closed session. Here to comment on the outcome of that discussion is Sergey Aleksandrovich Filatov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

[Begin recording] [Filatov] At last, after a lengthy period since the Supreme Soviet—I think it was January—first raised the issue of a legal appraisal of the supreme bodies' decision to alter the status of Crimea, there has been a debate of the issue and a decision was taken upon it today [21 May]. The Supreme Soviet adopted a decision after a long discussion of whether to adopt a law, a statement, or a decision. It adopted a decision and a statement as a basis [za osnovu]. The decision consists of two articles: The first establishes that the decision of the supreme bodies of power of the Union and Russia of 1954 is to be regarded as a violation of the Constitution and the legal procedures and is without legal force. The second article talks about the fact that today, bearing in mind that we have ratified treaties and agreements with Ukraine within the framework of the USSR and the CIS, we repudiate territorial claims of any kind and regard territorial principles as unshakeable. But on the other hand, so to speak, we are concerned at what is happening in Crimea at the moment and at the pressure being brought to bear on the situation in Crimea, as it were. We believe the issues pertaining to a settlement of the situation of Crimea's status should proceed by political means, through talks, and must take into account opinions based on the expression of the will of Crimea's people, of the Crimean population.

That then is the decision. The statement is rather long and is, basically, devoted to an explanation of why the Supreme Soviet actually came to the conclusion that such a decision had to be made. What seems to me to be most important is that we must think of the consequences, of preserving peace on earth and not pushing the situation because you can do anything very quickly. That's how Stalin did it. That was his method: quickly, but with bloodshed. Things can be done quickly but as a rule that means getting results through warfare. But they can be done sensibly, not immediately perhaps, it'll take time, but this requires patience and self-control and that in turn demands wisdom. [end recording]

Baburin Warns Deputies

OW2105180492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The leader of the "Russia" parliamentary faction Sergey Baburin believes that if the Russian Deputies do not give a just estimate to 1954 acts on Crimea's transfer to Ukraine then just they will carry "the descendants' curses but not those who adopted these unlawful decisions", he said at a press conference in the Russian Supreme Soviet Thursday [22 May].

Baburin also said that Ukraine is to be blamed for the dispute between Russia and Ukraine. "They must be more careful while adopting an act on their independence", Baburin declared.

Regional Affairs

Tatar Parliament Approves Draft Constitution

OW2105201992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The parliament of Tatarstan has approved after the first reading a draft of the republic's new constitution and sent it to the constitutional commission, which is expected to finalized it. Of the three versions of the fundamental law only the official one was accepted for discussion. The two others, drafted by the Movement of Democratic Reforms of Tatarstan and the parliamentary faction "Narodovlastiye", "Popular Government", were turned down.

The official draft relies on the referendum of March 21 which defines Tatarstan as a sovereign state and a subject of international law building its relations with other states on the basis of equitable treaties. In the case of Russia there must be a treaty on delegating powers.

The draft equalizes the powers of the President and Parliament. The alternative drafts put the emphasis on a parliamentary republic, whereas the President is made the head of executive government.

The chairman of the parliamentary committee on legislation, Rustam Khafizov, is rather critical of the alternative drafts. For instance, he says that both drafts "run counter to the Declaration of the Sovereignty of Tatarstan", because they suggest regarding the republic as part of Russia.

Shaymiyev Addresses Session

OW2105182192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev stated that the course of the republic towards the agreed regulation of relations with Russia by means of mutual delegating of powers does not destroy the Russian Federation but renews it and makes it more democratic. He made a speech at the Tatar Parliament's session in Kazan.

The President underlined that the dissolution of the Union forced Tatarstan to correct its policy. He said that the signing of a union agreement would automatically rise the Tatarstan's status. "It may be,—the President continued,—that the CIS will remain and Tatarstan will occupy the proper place, and it may be that a new federation or confederation will be formed instead of the former Union and Tatarstan may enter it but this is a question of the future. Today the republic can not remain a supervisor and must take an active part in the economic and political processes as a sovereign state and defend its interests during negotiations with Russia.

Workers' Demands in Komi Met; Work Resumes

LD2105143892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Makarov]

[Text] Usinsk (the Komi Republic) May 21 TASS—All oil and gas industry workers in the city of Usinsk in the north of Russia resumed work on Thursday [21 May] after the Governments of Russia and the Komi Republic succeeded to meet several demands of the striking workers.

The government has introduced new state prices for energy resources and increased wages of employees of budget-financed organisations in Komi by three times.

Although the strike was suspended, oilmen will continue to fight for their demands, Nikolay Peresechniy, the chairman of the strike committee, told TASS. Workers are not satisfied with the new prices for oil as they remain controlled by the state and want free market prices, he explained.

Several weeks will be necessary to resume oil extraction at all wells in the region, according to estimates of experts. Dozens of them stay idle at the moment.

The "Komitermneft" enterprise is 50 thousand tonnes of oil short of the planned output because of the strike. The total losses of the industry in the region are much higher.

Magadan Medical Workers Suspend Strike Action

OW2105142492 Magadan Radio Magadan in Russian 0700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The medical workers have suspended their strike. Three weeks of stormy debates, [word indistinct] emotion, [words indistinct]. And what is the result? The strike endured by the medical workers, by all accounts, gave them very little. An insignificant money infusion, and maybe the payment of wages owed, which alas, does not calm but rather stirs the situation. At best, the president's decree provokes a bitter (?smirk) from the medical workers.

The demands of the local administration were adopted at the conference of the Magadan medical establishments strike committees. The strikers, in particular, are insisting on being paid monetary compensation for the whole period of the strike. The medical workers do not consider these days as forced leave. It has been decided not to dissolve the strike committees.

Prosecutor Probes Ulyanovsk Arms Sale Charges

PM2105134792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 May 92 p 2

[Report by Colonel of Justice V. Yarovikov, prosecutor of Volga-Urals Military District: "Lies with a Print Run of 205,000 Copies"]

[Text] The Ulyanovsk sociopolitical weekly SLOVO MOLODEZHI [Youth Word] has published an article in which an anonymous underground trader boastfully describes his supposedly numerous deals with the military to buy and sell guns.

It is hardly any wonder that people experienced a most veritable shock after such reading matter with a print run of 205,000 copies. I judge by the squall of telephone calls, telegrams, and letters which literally swamped the command of the Volga-Urals Military District, the Ulyanovsk Garrison Prosecutor's Office, and the District Prosecutor's Office.

This is why I consider it my duty to provide some explanations. The article "Weapons Salesman" or, more accurately, the cases mentioned in it concerning the acquisition of pistols, assault rifles, and machine guns from military units are the fruit of a sick imagination. Yes, there have been crimes associated with the embezzlement of weapons in the district, as well as in units under central subordination and internal affairs units. Last year 21 cases were recorded. Practically all the weapons have been recovered, and criminal proceedings are being instituted against the guilty persons.

This year there have been three attempts to gain possession of weapons. I will specify: In all cases they have been made by criminal elements. There has not been a single instance, however, of servicemen voluntarily handing over weapons to the black market.

Therefore I find it hard, to put it mi[illegible], to understand the position of SLOVO MOLODEZHI in publishing deliberate lies. For none of the mass media in the Volga-Urals Region can accuse us of "suppressing" interesting material relating to cases of the embezzlement of weapons and ammunition. Moreover, the District Prosecutor's Office and garrison prosecutor's offices regularly hold news conferences, at which journalists obtain any information of interest to them.

The District Prosecutor's Office sent the editorial office a letter in which it demanded, in accordance with the Law "On the Press," that specific facts be produced relating to sales of weapons by the district's servicemen. If there prove to be none, then the newspaper must publish a refutation of its material.

Conversion at Voronezh Engine Plant Viewed

OW2205013692 Moscow Central Television First Program and Orbita Networks in Russian 1800 GMT 18 May 92

[Video report by Foshenko; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] [Foshenko] At a time when both intense debate and a search for the optimal solution to our space research and military complex—two closely connected entities—is going on, conversion and existing production manage to coexist at one of the major facilities in this field, namely at the Voronezh mechanical factory where the engines of practically all our rocket systems are manufactured.

Here is the achievement the team takes pride in: an engine for the Energiya system. [video shows various rocket engines at factory assembly floor, technicians working at them]

These are strictly consumer industry items: huge meat grinders for the food industry, unique pressure chambers, equipment for the gas and oil industry, and much more. [video shows above mentioned items] There have been some interesting offers, and several joint projects with foreign firms are already in progress. Naturally, survival in these most difficult economic conditions—and maintaining one's high technical potential—demands a lot of energy, cool thinking, and an enterprising spirit. For all these, Georgiy Vasilyevich Kostin, a doctor of economics and director of the factory, was decorated with the Orel [eagle] medal, a prominent Russian award. [video shows interview with Kostin]

[Begin video recording] [Kostin] If I have to talk about the most difficult, the easiest, the happiest, and the most unhappy day, I would talk about the day of receiving the award, because it is morally difficult to receive an award when people live such hard lives. As regards the Orel Award, my feelings are as follows: the eagle is a proud bird and will not crawl all over foreign countries with an outstretched claw. Finally, not only can I think but I can also plainly and clearly say why we reached such a state, and what we should do to change it. Professionals must handle this, and those who stand in their way must leave. It would be best if they left of their own accord, but if they do not, people will eventually sweep them away.

[Foshenko] What is the thing you want to get rid off most?

[Kostenko] The demagoguery, the cheating of people that continues even today, and the most important of all—I would like my people to believe in their history and their country, I would like every one to feel like a patriot, to defend our own interests instead of hoping that someone else will bring us our happiness, our joy, and our well being. [end video recording]

International Affairs

Official Charges Russian Interference in Crimea

LD2205093992 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The examination in the Russian Supreme Soviet of the issue on assessing from the legal point of view the act of 1954 on transferring the Crimea to Ukraine, scheduled for today, means interfering in the internal affairs of an independent state. This was stated by Vasyl Durdynets, first deputy chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet, at the news conference held in the Russian parliament yesterday.

He said the delegation headed by him arrived in Moscow in order to state Ukraine's serious anxiety with regard to the possible consequences of this step and its effect on the foundation of Russian-Ukrainian relations. In his statement he stressed that the position of Kiev consists in recognizing the Crimea as a constituent part of Ukraine which is recognized by the world community in its present borders. The issue of relations between Ukraine and the Crimea is the republic's internal matter. Therefore the discussion of the act of 1954 is considered to be an unfriendly and illegal act that can destabilize the situation in both states.

Vasyl Durdynets thinks that examination of this issue in the Russian parliament can play the role of a detonator and foster deepening opposition and lead to unpredictable consequences. He called on the Russian side to understand the responsibility for their actions which lead to dividing the Crimea and a new hotbed of tension appearing.

Kravchuk on Russia's Territorial Claims

LD2105174792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Report over video by correspondent V. Lyaskalo; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk had a meeting today with a group of top-ranking NATO officers and officials. [passage omitted]

During the talks the NATO officers noted that the presidents of Russia and Ukraine now will have to resolve military issues in close conjunction with political ones.

Agreeing with this, Leonid Kravchuk said that, for example, the Black Sea Fleet has no significance militarily. That is already clear to everybody. However, politically, this is a serious problem, closely bound up with the problem of the Crimea. Incidentally, President Kravchuk said, if the Russian Supreme Soviet now judges the 1954 Union acts on the Crimea to be illegal, this means that Russia has direct territorial claims on Ukraine.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Crimea

LD2105210892 Budapest Kossuth Radio Network in Hungarian 2000 GMT 21 May 92

[Excerpts] In Moscow, the Russian parliament has decided that the decision which at the time allotted the Crimean peninsula to the Ukraine was illegal. [passage omitted]

Our guest is the Ukrainian prime minister. Our correspondent, understandably, asked Vitold Fokin primarily whether he considered some sort of conflict to be conceivable in the wake of the decision of the Russian Parliament. Istvan Kulcsar's exclusive interview follows:

[Kulcsar] Russia has not yet pronounced the final word in the issue of where the Crimea belongs. Does Mr. Prime Minister consider it conceivable that because of the Crimea, or for another reason, the dispute between Russia and Ukraine might deteriorate into an armed conflict? I asked Vitold Fokin.

[Begin Fokin recording in Ukrainian, fading into Hungarian translation] That is a bold question. I reply, first and foremost, that first I do not believe there is a basis why Russia would, as you put it, have to pronounce the final word in the issue. The Crimea is an inseparable, inalienable part of the Ukrainian state.

By the will of the deputies of its own parliament, it restored constitutional justice yesterday, when the Crimean Parliament decided, with a majority vote, that it would withdraw the declaration on so-called independence of the peninsula.

I do not know about the spirit in which the debate on this took place at the session of the Russian Supreme Soviet, but I state most resolutely: Russia has no basis to form any right whatsoever to a territory of the sovereign Ukrainian state. I believe in the prudence, wisdom, good intention of the Russian Parliament; I believe in the purity of the intentions of the Russian leaders. I believe that the situation must not be dramatized unnecessarily. [end recording]

Discusses Crimea With Hungary's Antall

LD2105202792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, during his talks in Budapest today with Hungary's Prime Minister Antall, when touching on the fate of Crimea, expressed the hope that Russia's Parliament will display wisdom and that this question will be resolved peacefully. Otherwise a domino principle may emerge in the CIS: Wars for the revision of borders will become ubiquitous. [video shows Antall-Fokin talks in Budapest]

Reportage on Kravchuk Visit to Poland Continues

Friendship Treaty Signed

PM2105140592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
20 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Poland Needs a Strong and Independent Ukraine"]

[Text] Warsaw—Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk and Polish President L. Walesa have signed in Warsaw a treaty on good-neighborliness, friendly relations, and cooperation between the two countries.

The treaty confirms the inviolability of the borders now and in the future and the absence of territorial claims against each other. Both states renounce the use of force in relations and will not allow aggression against another country to proceed from their territory. Ukraine and Poland pledge to cooperate in European structures and mechanisms and to cooperate in the matter of disarmament. The treaty provides for political, economic, cultural, scientific, and ecological cooperation and annual meetings of foreign ministers. Poland and Ukraine will regularly hold consultations on questions of security.

"Poland was the first to recognize free Ukraine," Lech Walesa said during the talks. "We must create a new order in this part of the world. An order based not on supremacy but on the principles of equality, partnership, and dialogue. Poland needs a rich, strong, and independent Ukraine. We hope that Ukraine also needs a rich, strong, and independent Poland."

Also signed on the first day of the Ukrainian president's official visit to Poland were a Polish-Ukrainian agreement on border crossings, transport, and cooperation in the sphere of agriculture; a protocol recognizing the equal validity of documents on graduation from secondary schools and higher educational institutions; and a declaration on cultural and scientific cooperation.

President L. Kravchuk called the day of the signing of the Polish-Ukrainian treaty historic and emphasized that a single basis has now been created for the broadest contacts in all spheres. The day before, in conversation with Polish journalists, L. Kravchuk had defined relations with Poland as the priority for Ukraine and declared: "After my visit to Warsaw the degree of cooperation between Ukraine and Poland will be greater than with any other CIS country, including Russia."

Kravchuk Comments on Visit

PM2205105592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
21 May 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Leonid Kornilov report: "Ukraine—a Partner With Prospects, Poland Believes"]

[Text] Warsaw—Concluding his two-day visit to Poland, the Ukrainian president stated once again that henceforth both sides have the possibility of creating a model for new relations in East Europe.

During his meeting with A. Glapinski, minister for foreign economic cooperation, L. Kravchuk stated that he invites Polish entrepreneurs to invest their capital in his country, saying that the legal conditions for this already exist. In a conversation with Foreign Minister K. Skubiszewski assurances were given that Ukraine's declared aim of becoming a nuclear-free state is being realized. Ukraine wants to be neutral.

In connection with this visit, the majority of Polish newspapers are stressing that Ukraine is a partner with prospects, and that following economic transformations, fast progress can be expected from it, which will undoubtedly be advantageous for Poland too.

At a press conference preceding his flight back to Kiev, L.M. Kravchuk stated inter alia:

"I am not a geometer, I am an economist, but it seems to me that the more points of support a figure has, the stronger and more stable it is. Of course, Ukraine cannot be part of the Poland-Czechoslovakia-Hungary triangle. That is why we would like to create a "tetrahedron."

Many newspapers included this statement ("Four Instead of Three!") in their headlines over reports about the visit. Journalists were interested in the comparison between Poland and Russia made in the Ukrainian president's other utterances.

"Poland is an equal partner for us, whereas Russia is trying to speak to us from the position of "elder brother" and is proceeding from imperial positions. Issuing a decree, President Yeltsin wanted to make the Black Sea Fleet subordinate to himself. That is essentially the same as if I wanted to make the Baltic Fleet subordinate to myself."

The Ukrainian president also expressed his opinion about the CIS:

"It only has a future once it refuses to be a relic of the former USSR, and once all the states have equal rights and none of them dominates. This primarily concerns questions of ownership. Is it normal for Russia to appropriate the entire real estate of the former USSR—for example, it possesses 30 installations in Warsaw, while Ukraine has to buy a residence for itself here today?"

National Affairs

Crimean Supreme Soviet Continues Deliberations

Rescinds Independence Declaration

LD2105163292 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1440 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] After reviewing its previous decisions, the Crimean Supreme Soviet adopted a decision today on the proclamation of state independence [samostoyatelnosti] and the holding of a pan-Crimean referendum. Correspondent Vladimir Plotnikov has the details:

[Plotnikov] For two days the Crimean people's deputies have been looking at various juridical nuances in exhausting discussions. They even have been delving into minutiae. Basically, the issue before the session was as simple as issuing an order revoking the act on the proclamation of state independence and a pan-Crimean referendum. This was demanded by a decision of the Ukrainian parliament on 13 May. Otherwise, the Ukrainian president warned, there could be unpredictable consequences, up to and including bloodshed.

The burden of responsibility for the calm and prosperity of the electorate put pressure on the people's deputies, but the desire was to get out of this situation without disgrace, even with benefits for the Crimea. The latter opportunity was hinted at by the promise of the Ukrainian president and parliament to continue negotiations on the demarcation of powers between Ukraine and Crimea.

It is true that Leonid Kravchuk has promised before to give the Crimea as much power as it wants. Today we all know what came of this. Nevertheless, the deputies believed Kravchuk one more time and rescinded the act on independence on the grounds that such a provision is included in the constitution of the Republic of Crimea and that negotiations will be continued on the demarcation of power.

The fact that Kiev recently has been very actively offering economic aid to the Crimea also affected the decision. A complete program for the stabilization of the Crimean economy has been worked out, so the Ukrainian president's claim that the Crimea has flourished within Ukraine is not completely true.

The question of the abrogation of the referendum was no less controversial. Having sorted through many versions, the deputies decided to set it aside until 10 June. In the interim, consultations will be carried out with initiative groups on the referendum, since it cannot just be abrogated as the number of votes required by law to hold a referendum has been collected. The referendum question will be changed to one that complies with the Ukrainian Constitution and the Crimean Constitution, and with which Ukraine agrees.

Reviews Independece, Referendum

LD2105173592 Kiev UKRINFORM in Russian 1507 GMT 21 May 92

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Lev Ryabchukov]

[Text] Simferopol, 21 May—The extraordinary session of the Crimean parliament made a decision today which says that in connection with the adopting of the constitution of Crimea, the act of state independence of the republic has been realized. Consequently, the resolution on that Crimean independence has been repealed. The parliament addressed the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine with the proposal to simultaneously suspend the effect of the law of Ukraine "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" and the discussion of the draft law on the representation of the president of Ukraine in Crimea.

Another resolution adopted today takes into account the readiness to resume work on a division of power between Ukraine and Crimea expressed by Ukrainian President L.M. Kravchuk at a meeting with Ukrainian people's deputies from Crimea. The resolution says that concrete proposals expressing the republic's position on the issue of a division of power are to be submitted to the Ukrainian president. The effect of the 5 May resolution of the Crimean Supreme Soviet "On Holding a General Crimean Referendum" has been suspended until 10 June by a decision of the Crimean Supreme Soviet session in order to hold consultations with the initiative group which organized the collection of signatures and to divide power between Crimea and Ukraine.

Before these documents were adopted, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet made a big effort to avoid an imminent parliamentary crisis. The conflict developed after Deputy Boris Vasilev's statement that he had no intention of tolerating further constant pressure from those who try by any means to make others make the decisions they need. Vasilev then left the hall. A group of deputies followed his example. After lengthy negotiations they returned, having specified a number of measures for protecting their deputy's rights. It was possible to resume voting without the fear that there would not be enough votes.

At the end of the session, 88 deputies decided to send a letter to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine in which they draw attention to the fact that at the Ukrainian parliament session on 13 May many speeches contained openly rude utterances and ungrounded accusations aimed at the address of the Supreme Soviet of Crimea and its chairman. The deputies asked the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet to abstain from such instances in the future.

'Compromise' Document Urged

MK2205081592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 May 92 p 1

[Aleksandr Pilat report: "Crimea: Crimea 'Suspends' Its State Autonomy and Asks Kiev To Do the Same With the Law on the Peninsula's Status"]

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Crimean Supreme Soviet began 20 May. Roughly two hours were spent discussing the agenda. Some deputies insistently demanded that questions of the repeal of the Crimean Supreme Soviet decisions of 5 May 1992—the act proclaiming the Republic of Crimea's state autonomy and the concomitant resolutions—be considered and the resignation of the Crimean Supreme Soviet chairman, the dissolution of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, and the holding of new elections discussed. Proposals that Crimea secede from Ukraine and subsequently become part of Russia were also put to the vote.

The following items were placed on the agenda following the vote:

1. The political situation in Crimea and the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet resolution of 13 May 1992.

2. The work of the Crimean Council of Ministers.

3. The election and early release of people's judges.

Nikolay Bagrov, chairman of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, spoke next and pointed out that the events of the last few days have complicated life for Crimea's people. "It looked as though in adopting our decisions 5 May we were only trying to emphasize the demarcation of powers between the Republic of Crimea and Ukraine," he said. Bagrov urged deputies to adopt a compromise document. "The act 'On the Proclamation of the State Autonomy of the Republic of Crimea' does not mean the peninsula's secession from Ukraine," he continued. "We have confirmed this in our constitution. We will comply with the Helsinki agreements. We want to prevent the Crimea from being used to worsen Ukrainian-Russian relations. The Crimea must be a region that strengthens these relations. I am sure that the Russian Supreme Soviet and Government will be as considerate as possible when discussing matters pertaining to the Crimea," Nikolay Bagrov said.

After his speech deputies were given a draft resolution on the first item on the agenda. It said the following: "In view of the worsening of the political situation in Crimea and the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet decision of 13 May 1992, the Crimean Supreme Soviet resolves to agree to the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet resolution of 13 May 1992 with regard to suspending the act 'On the Proclamation of the State Autonomy of the Republic of Crimea' and the Crimean Supreme Soviet resolution on the act 'On the Proclamation of the State Autonomy of the Republic of Crimea.'"

In view of what Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk said at a meeting with Ukrainian people's deputies from the Crimea 16 May regarding his readiness to resume work on the demarcation of powers between Ukraine and the Republic of Crimea it was decided to submit to the Ukrainian president specific proposals setting out the Republic of Crimea's position on these issues.

The Crimean Supreme Soviet asked the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet at the same time to suspend the operation of the Ukrainian law "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea."

In connection with the fact that the Republic of Crimea Constitution contains guarantees of Crimea's sovereign rights and statehood and in the interests of stabilizing the political situation, the Crimean Supreme Soviet asked the action group preparing the all-Crimean referendum to remove its question "Do you favor an independent Republic of Crimea in union with other states?" from the all-Crimean referendum. The Crimean parliament instructed the Crimean Supreme Soviet Presidium to hold a "roundtable" taking into account the opinions of various sociopolitical formations, national-cultural associations, and other organizations with a view to ensuring constant stability in Crimea, strengthening interethnic accord and civil peace, and formulating the requisite proposals and recommendations on these questions.

An anti-Ukrainian rally involving 230 people was held in front of the Crimean Supreme Soviet building from the start of the session. Their slogans included the following: "We demand a referendum!" "Rukh—Hands off the Crimea!" "No to a Crimean Karabakh!" and "No to civil war!"

Kiev Newspapers Comment on Crimea Situation

LD2205112192 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1529 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] 21 May—"The documents, adopted by the Supreme Soviet of Crimea, under certain conditions of their implementation, may lead to a territorial division of Ukraine," stated Volodymyr Hrynyov, deputy head of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine, in an interview to the newspaper DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAINA. In his opinion, in the current situation "it is very important to preserve both the territorial integrity of Ukraine and its reputation of the state, which demonstrates a peaceful countenance in both foreign and domestic policy. We should use only constitutional means. It is our capital—political and economic. Any deviation toward the side of the means of force would be a blow to our positions in the world."

Touching upon the future system of Ukraine, Volodymyr Hrynyov, who, in his words, "supports federalization of Ukraine," says "not to be afraid of considering the ideas of a federation." "In the possible land system of Ukraine, he stated, I see a balanced system. Are there not enough positive examples in the world: Germany, Switzerland, the United States?"

The article "To Take the Path of the Law," published in the newspaper PRAVDA UKRAINY, stresses that "up to now Ukraine has managed to preserve a comparative civil calm and an interethnic peace." However, writes the newspaper, the sequence of the occurrence and the character of the conflicts on the territory of the former USSR leave little hope that the events will develop in this way in the future as well. It is clear, stresses PRAVDA UKRAINY, that the chauvinistic circles of Russia are trying, if not to inflame a civil war in Ukraine, then at least to create a pretext for its interference in its internal affairs, of course, under the slogans of "protection of human rights, Russian-speaking population, the national interests of Russia." Crimea has been selected to be the first object, a trial stone in this game."

The article "Between Belbek and Dnieper" in today's issue of HOLOS UKRAINY is also dedicated to the situation in Crimea. "In the event of declaring Crimea an independent state or its unification with Russia, writes the newspaper, the population of the peninsula will lose much more than it gains because economically and geopolitically Crimea is linked first of all to Ukraine."

MOLOD UKRAINY publishes today the reports on the work of the all Ukrainian popular meeting of the Dniester area which took place not long ago in a small Dniester settlement, Rashkovo. Over 5,000 Ukrainians, who with great difficulties gathered at the meeting, as emphasized in the report, asked to pass over an address to the Ukrainians of the whole world.

"Dear brothers and sisters, says the address, we have gathered because people die and misery and disaster have settled in our dwellings. We beg on our knees, with a prayer on our lips, for Ukraine to remember about us, for you to know the truth, brothers and sisters, and not turn your back on us. We regard with respect and sincerity the people of Bessarabia and Romania and understand humanly their aspiration to unite, let them be happy in everything and God help them. Let them understand us, Ukrainians, in the same way, mother Ukraine is closer to us, we have no other future either as going back..."

In another report of today's MOLOD UKRAINY, also dedicated to the situation of the Ukrainians in the Dniester area, the author writes: "Wherever one goes, they say the same thing about Ukraine: It betrays its people. Our temporizing provokes the anti-Ukrainian attitude. Accordingly the pro-Russian attitudes grow, especially in Tiraspol and Bendery. Under such moral pressure, newly created organizations of Ukrainians disintegrated from inside: One starts feeling ashamed. The plan to turn the Dniester area into a point for the disobedient Ukraine is being realized with success."

Opposing Views on Crimean Problem Noted

MK2105101392 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 May 92 p 3

[Vladimir Skachko article featuring comments by Sergey Kunitsyn and Grigoriy Demidov, Ukrainian Supreme Soviet Deputies from Crimea: "Ukraine: Two Opposing Views of Crimean State Autonomy"]

[Text] The events in the Crimea leading to the local parliament's adoption 5 May of the act proclaiming state autonomy and the resolution on a referendum to confirm it, caused from the very outset conflicting views not only among the peninsula's population but also among local deputies. Despite the documents that have been adopted, questions relating to the political and territorial split are still on the agenda in the Crimea. If the Crimean Supreme Soviet does not obey the Ukrainian Parliament's resolution and does not change its decision and the referendum produces different results in different regions, it is quite possible that those regions which do not support the referendum will want to remain in Ukraine.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent met with two Ukrainian Supreme Soviet deputies from the Crimea—Sergey Kunitsyn, chairman of the Krasnoperekopsk City Soviet and initiator of the movement of the five northern rayons of the peninsula for affiliation to Kherson Oblast if Crimea leaves Ukraine, and Grigoriy Demidov, chairman of the Ukraine Supreme Soviet Subcommission for Legality and member of the working group on the demarcation of powers between Ukraine and Crimea.

Sergey Kunitsyn: The act of autonomy is a great mistake.

I think that the Republic of Crimea act of state autonomy adopted by our parliament is a document which is politically neither well considered nor justified. I asked Crimean deputies and leaders of the Republican Movement of Crimea what the basis for an independent Crimea was and did not receive a concrete or intelligible answer from anyone. They spoke about the Crimean community, multiethnicity, and all that. But when this document was adopted 5 May "in view of the threat," which was the motive given, I was simply shocked: a threat from where? Bagrov replied then: "What, you do not know?" implying Ukraine, of course, and its nationalism. So let us examine whether this threat exists. In fact, every third Crimean is Ukrainian. And what do the Crimean Ukrainians as a national minority have today? Not one newspaper in their own language, not one Ukrainian school, the Television Service does not use Ukrainian, and the Radio Service only began doing so a month ago. So forgive me for asking, but what threat of nationalism is there here?

I support the following viewpoint: Crimea must be a republic with the maximum sovereign rights which would take account of the interests of the entire population of Crimea. I find all nationalism, be it Ukrainian,

Russian, or Crimean Tatar, frightening. But Crimea must remain part of Ukraine, that is an economic necessity.

I direct a city where 70 percent of the population is Russian. However, our city soviet consistently upholds the same view because the city has a large amount of industry working for Ukraine, for the CIS, and for foreign countries alike, and its raw materials base is concentrated primarily in Ukraine. Our leaders are now alarmed by refusals to supply Ukrainian raw materials because that will throw thousands of people onto the street. From this viewpoint, too, the Republic of Crimea act of state autonomy is a great mistake. Especially since in over a year's work the Crimean parliament was only able to adopt a law on the referendum and a law banning the allocation of land for new construction in a 3 km coastal zone. My colleagues, mayors of resort cities, are really up in arms: You have to wait three to four months for a session of the Crimean parliament to obtain a plot of land to build a barn.

Thus in the Crimea many people oppose the referendum and secession. There is a whole information blackout about us. Except for a few Crimean Television reporters all the mass media are speaking in favor of the referendum and Crimeans often get one-sided, badly argued, populist information. If they let us speak as specialists we could tell them a lot about what the Crimea does and does not have. Then many people would think about how they should vote.

Grigoriy Demidov: Kiev, Moscow, and Ankara must understand that Crimea wants to be autonomous.

The situation which has arisen in Ukraine since the act adopted 5 May this year was aggravated long before the session began. To a considerable extent, too, these events were triggered by the Ukrainian parliament itself when it adopted the law "On the Status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" 29 April. The ill-considered decisions of the Ukrainian leadership against Major General Valeriy Kuznetsov played their part, too. The law in question simply deprived Crimea of its statehood and is very similar to the 1945 act on the abolition of the Crimean Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic or Gamsakhurdia's acts abolishing the South Ossetia and Abkhaz autonomous formations.

However, even in such extreme conditions the Crimean parliament adopted two decisions: It ratified the Constitution which clearly states that Crimea remains in Ukraine and will form relations with it on treaty principles. There are parallels to this. When Tatarstan did not sign the Federation Treaty Russia concluded a bilateral treaty with it, recognizing previously the declaration of sovereignty of all its autonomous formations which had adopted such documents. In view of that Ukraine already looks absurd in the eyes of the international community. Such conduct by Ukraine merely encourages one thing—that Crimea will be forced to leave Ukraine.

In addition, the Crimean parliament has proclaimed not an independent but a sovereign state within Ukraine and consequently has not violated its territorial integrity. This constitution may not be ideal, but it is aimed at the democratic reorganization and regularization of relations within the state. Three state languages have been adopted—Crimean Tatar, Russia, and Ukrainian—and the formation of national territorial units and the representation of the ethnic groups in parliament have been envisaged.

By this Constitution we have stolen the thunder of the extreme forces in Kiev, Moscow, and Ankara where each was playing his own card: one the Russian, one the Ukrainian, the other the Crimean Tatar. And Kiev, Moscow, and Ankara must understand that Crimea wants to be a sovereign state. [end of Demidov comment]

It is obvious that these two positions will predominate at the Crimean Supreme Soviet session opening 20 May. The Crimean parliament faces a difficult task—it has to revoke its own decision in accordance with the Ukraine parliament's decision.

On 18 May an appeal to Crimean Supreme Soviet deputies was published signed by the chairmen of the executive committees of Krasnoperekopsk, Yevpatoriya, Dzhankoy, Bakhchisaray, Yalta, Alushta, Feodosiya, and Kerch and the chairmen of the Krasnoperekopskiy, Sovetskiy, Krasnogvardeyskiy, Kirovskiy, Chernomorskiy, Nizhnegorodskiy, Belogorodskiy, and Pervomayskiy Rayon Soviets and also of Simferopol's Kiyevskiy and Zaliznichniy Rayon Soviets, urging the Crimean Supreme Soviet to change its decision. This appeal called the 5 May Act the beginning of the road to civil war. In the opinion of the authors of the appeal, the leaders of the Republican Movement of Crimea, who are insisting on creating their own armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and their opponents in the pro-Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar movements, who insist on dissolving the Crimean Supreme Soviet and introducing direct presidential rule from Kiev in the peninsula, are only aggravating the general situation.

"The Crimean Supreme Soviet must adopt an amendment to its decision of 5 May 1992 which must reflect the indissoluble link between Crimea and Ukraine and, accordingly, must change the wording of the questions on the ballot paper in the referendum if the initiators are going to insist on its taking place. But if there is a further violation of the Ukraine's Constitution and laws by the Crimean Supreme Soviet we will declare our observance of its legislation and that of the Republic of Crimea if the latter does not contravene that of Ukraine," the appeal says.

Byelarus

Finnish President Koivisto Begins Visit

LD2105100192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1750 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Minsk, May 20 BELTA-TASS—Dialogue that has begun between Byelarus and Finland will continue to develop fruitfully, President Mauno Koivisto of Finland told an official reception in his honour in Minsk, where he was on a one-day working visit today.

The republic's membership in the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe means that its is ready to actively cooperate within the framework of the European process and help contain new threats of political, economic and ecological nature on this continent, he said.

Signs Cooperation Agreement

OW2105203492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1919 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Byelorusian parliament speaker, Stanislav Shushkevich and President Mauno Koivisto, of Finland, have signed an agreement on trading and economic cooperation between their countries and an agreement on the protection of investment in the Byelorusian economy. The ceremony took place in Minsk.

Asked at a news conference later in the day about whether Finland was going to establish clearing supplies of goods with the CIS member-states, identical to the arrangement that existed between Finland and the USSR before 1990 President Koivisto said this would be "very unlikely". However, he added that "barter exchanges will be developing on a wide scale".

Bank To Accelerate Introduction of New Money

OW2105174892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1606 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Confident sources reported to "IF" [INTERFAX] that the National Bank of Byelarus intends to accelerate the terms of introduction new Byelarusian money.

At first they were to be introduced June 1. But according to the experts' opinion, it is worth while to complete the change of the old money for new and to take the ruble out of circulation.

Such a hurry was explained by a great cash deficit in the bank—only one fifth of the necessary cash is received in Minsk from Russia.

Defense Ministry: Conscription Target In Sight

LD1905175692 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1100 GMT 19 May 92

[Text] The Byelarusian Defense Ministry has reported that the republican national army conscription quota will be met before 15 July. It is approximately 15 percent lower than last year.

The Supreme Soviet last September decided that citizens of the Republic of Byelarus will only serve on the territory of the republic. However, some conscripts will be sent to Russian training centers which have committed themselves to provide the Byelarusian Armed Forces with specialists in rocket equipment and other scarce military skills.

The draft of all students at all daytime educational establishments was deferred. Conscripts are being called up to serve in republican ground forces, frontier, air defense and railroad troops, as well as others.

Moldova

Snegur Says Talk on Local Self-Rule Premature

OW2105183392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1712 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Talking to a group of journalists on Thursday [21 May], President Mircea Snegur spoke out against implementing the "Local Selfrule" legislation passed by the Parliament. The head of state believes that the immediate dismantlement of regions and the formation of provinces would further destabilize the situation in Moldova and would escalate tension. To explain his view, the President said: "On studying the public opinion and the state of local affairs, we've concluded that a transition should be smooth, thorough, and without zigzags. People need time to get used to changes. Obviously, this does not abolish the programs, declared by the law (on local selfrule) but puts them off to the foreseeable future. There is a need to fix the term of a transitional period and the number of provinces and to get down to new structures' formation at grassroots level. Such work is already under way in the countryside with local power being consolidated there. After the grassroots' reinforcement, it will be possible to abondon medium management staffs."

On the problem of drafting a new constitution in Moldova, the President remarked that the drafting is nearing completion. "At its upcoming session, the Parliament will be informed in detail about the draft of the New Fundamental Law" Mr.Snegur reported.

In his opinion, after preliminary Parliamentary debates, the major document should be put for referendum endorsement.

Soviet Lables 14th Army Actions 'Occupation'

LD2105181292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Moldova's Foreign Ministry has demanded the immediate withdrawal of the 14th Army from the Republic's territory as an indispensable condition toward the restoration of peace on the left bank of the Dniester.

Today Moldova's parliament followed its president in declaring that the appearance of the 14th Army's armored vehicles at the Dniester region guards' positions is an occupation of the eastern areas of the Republic. The Moldovan Interior Ministry claims that a further 27 tanks and 12 armored personnel carriers have made their way to Dubossary from Tiraspol. That is to say, if one relies on the Moldovan source, more than 50 tanks are now positioned at Dubossary. [video shows brief archive pictures of 14th Army armor]

On the instructions of President Yeltsin, Russia is to send a group of military observers to the Dniester region conflict zone, consisting of up to 100 servicemen.

Actions 'Nullify' Peace Efforts

LD2105140892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1338 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, May 21 TASS—"An open military aggression against our state has become a fait accompli," according to a statement by the presidium of the Moldovan parliament released in Chisinau today. "The 14th Army of the Russian Federation—a member of the U.N. Security Council—occupied Eastern regions of Moldova. Such actions nullify all efforts of the Moldovan leadership to settle by political means the artificially created conflict in the Dniester region, and to implement agreements reached by foreign ministers of Moldova, Russia, Romania and Ukraine at quadrilateral meetings in Helsinki and Chisinau," the document says.

The presidium of the Moldovan parliament demanded the immediate withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of the sovereign state and urged all compatriots to be united.

Captured Equipment 'Interpreted Differently'

PM2105145992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 May 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Military observer Vikrot Litovkin report: "Surely Not War After All? Tanks of the 14th Army in the Zone of the Dniester Conflict"]

[Text] The military confrontation in Moldova has entered a new, still more dangerous phase. T72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles seized by the local militia from the Russian 14th Army, which is billeted here, have appeared in the region of the city of Dubossary. As usual, this fact is interpreted differently by the sides.

IZVESTIYA's military observer Viktor Litovkin contacted by phone Major General Yuriy Netkachev, commander of the 14th Army, and asked him how the seizure of military equipment by militiamen is to be explained, and why the army command authorities are not taking measures to return this equipment to its places of deployment.

"For three whole days the village of Cosnita and the city of Dubossary have been bombarded by artillery fire from the right bank," the general said. "Three shells exploded in the location of our engineer-sapper brigade, four in the camp where officers' and warrant officers' families live. There were 20 killed and wounded. When women and children, your own dear ones, are perishing before your very eyes, it is impossible to restrain people."

A group of armored vehicles consisting of 10 tanks, 10 armored transporters, and three heavy guns were seized by attached men, that is to say, soldiers and sergeants of the reserve residing near the military unit who are supposed to drive combat vehicles in the event of war. The group of armored vehicles made for the region from which the bombardment of the left bank was coming. Now the army command authorities are taking all possible measures to determine the whereabouts of this combat equipment and return it to the places of its permanent deployment.

"The bloodshed can be stopped only on one condition," Gen. Netkachev believes. "If the Moldova leadership adopts effective measures for a cease-fire on the right bank. But no one will be able to forbid people to meet fire with fire and defend their lives".

Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, held a press conference 20 May in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Press Center. Replying to a question from IZVESTIYA's correspondent on the Army's responsibility for the loss of 10 tanks and 10 combat vehicles in Tiraspol, he said:

It is very easy to argue about responsibility sitting in this hall. But when a 15,000-strong crowd of frenzied people arrive in the unit, some of whom only the day before buried their dear ones, I cannot rule out that among officers and generals there will be some who will take the side of these insulted and injured people. All this cannot be ruled out.

At the same time, the commander in chief stated, control of the army had not been lost.

Evacuation of Civilians Begins in Dubossary

AU2105150592 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1300 GMT 21 May 92

[Septimiu Roman report from Chisinau]

[Excerpt] The situation in the conflict area is becoming increasingly worrisome by the hour. The evacuation of civilians has begun in Dubossary and Grigoriopol, an action initiated by local mayors and scheduled to take place in three stages today and tomorrow. The first refugees already have arrived in Chisinau. The involvement of the 14th Army in siding with the separatists and its preparation for extensive military action in Dubossary and Grigoriopol rayons also is confirmed by the fact that the government of the self-proclaimed Dniestrian Republic has created a commission to organize evacuations from rayons where military actions are taking place.

The authorities of the so-called Dniestrian Republic ordered town and rayon executives in Tiraspol, Ribnita, Camenca, and Slobozia to receive refugees. It seems that people are taking refuge mostly on the right bank of the Dniester River, however.

The tension also is due to the presence of Russian military helicopters flying over Grigoriopol, according to reports by correspondents of the national Moldovan radio.

A report received a few minutes ago says that about one hour ago Moldovan Defense Minister Ion Costas banned flights over the conflict area. [passage omitted]

More on Evacuation

LD2105214892 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 2000 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] According to reports from the Dniester region, evacuation of civilians from Dubossary has started. Up to 7,000 people are to be evacuated to Ukraine and Russia.

Defense Ministry Bans Use of Tiraspol Airport

LD2105165792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1606 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Chisinau, 21 May (MOLDOVA-PRES—TASS)—Lieutenant General Ion Kostash, the Moldovan minister of defense, today informed Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, the commander-in-chief of the CIS joint armed forces and the Russian and Ukrainian defense ministers that use of the "Tiraspol" aerodrome and the airspace belonging to it is forbidden. As from 1000 on 21 May flights by all types of aircraft have been cancelled. The minister has used the sharply deteriorating situation and the practical absence of control over airspace in this particular region by the Moldovan Ministry of Defense as justification for such a decision.

The telegram reports that flights by the post plane serving the 14th Army will be possible from the airport at Chisinau where security can be fully guaranteed.

Dniester's Position Blocks Conciliation Talks

LD2105170192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1500 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The next session of the conciliation commission can take place only when the Dniester Region's position on the problems under examination becomes clear and when its leadership shows a positive attitude to solving these issues under the observers' control. Konstantin Oborok, leader of the Moldovan delegation, first deputy prime minister of the republic, said this to a MOLDOVA-PRESS correspondent. He added that a draft conciliatory protocol has been prepared within the framework of the conciliation commission's sitting yesterday.

Airborne Regiment To Redeploy to Siberia

LD2205113792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1050 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Dubossary, 22 May—The two-day blockade by Chisinau residents of the airborne regiment has ended with the setting up of a commission comprising representatives of the town authorities, Moldova's Defense Ministry, and the regiment's command. An agreement on handing over military equipment, weapons, and housing to Moldova's Defense Ministry is ready for signing.

The unit will be rebased in Abakan (southeastern Siberia) according to regimental commander Colonel Lebed. On 25 May, a working group will fly there to prepare for the redeployment, which will begin in the middle of June and will last for a month.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Continues Visit, Talks in U.S.

Comments on IMF Talks

LD2105220292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] President Nazarbayev visited the IMF and met its managing director, Camdessus, on the last day of his stay in Washington. As is known, the council of IMF managers recently voted for admitting Kazakhstan and other CIS countries to this largest international financial organization. This makes the granting of hard currency credits easier for Kazakhstan.

Nursultan Nazarbayev's speech at the U.S. National Press Club provoked great interest. The American press noted with satisfaction that Kazakhstan is prepared to get rid of the nuclear arsenal situated on its territory before the end of this decade.

[Begin Nazarbayev recording] During my meetings today at the International Bank and the IMF I raised the question of speeding up the promised aid, first of all, for Russia, and naturally, for Kazakhstan, because I think that the success of the reform that is now being carried out in Russia is important for Russia, above all, but it also affects all of us. I am pleased with the results. My meetings with the businessmen were very interesting. Two problems—nuclear, and Islamic fundamentalism—were the main topics raised, and I had to respond to them. [end recording] [video shows Nazarbayev surrounded by various officials, shots of Nazarbayev speaking at the National Press Club and interview with Nazarbayev]

Arrives in New York

LD2105035992 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0032 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shitov]

[Text] New York, 21 May—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan who is in the United States on an official visit arrived in New York on the evening of 20 May. Based at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel where U.S. President George Bush stays during trips to the country's biggest city, the Kazakh president headed for Wall Street. There at the headquarters of the J.P. Morgan banking corporation a reception was given in his honor. J.P. Morgan—one of the U.S.'s major banks—is rendering Kazakhstan consultative assistance in the working out by the republic of an agreement with the U.S. corporation Chevron on the setting up of the Tengizshevroil joint enterprise.

The program of N. Nazarbayev's stay in New York is extremely packed. It includes a visit to the UN headquarters and a meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali, a speech at the New York International Relations Council, meetings with the heads of industrial, agricultural, and financial circles of the U.S., with representatives of the public, and with journalists. A visit to the famous Metropolitan Opera House is also envisaged, and a trip to the U.S. Army military academy at West Point.

Practically all the events in the New York part of the visit by N. Nazarbayev to the United States, with the exception of the news conference at the UN headquarters and the cultural program will be closed to journalists.

At the end of the visit on 23 May, the president is to leave New York for Alma-Ata.

Cited on Commonwealth Status

LD2105221292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2054 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Kochetkov and Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] United Nations, May 22 TASS—Sovereign states that have emerged on the territory of the former Soviet Union must determine their independence and sovereignty in a civilized manner, without bloodshed or wars, President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan told a news conference at the UN Headquarters on Thursday [21May] after an hour-long conversation with UN chief Butros Butros Ghali.

Speaking of the present condition of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Nazarbayev said that "the commonwealth which we wanted to create does not exist" and likened the CIS leaders' meetings to a club of presidents.

A treaty of friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance—a large-scale interstate agreement—will be signed literally within a week, Nazarbayev said.

Speaking about the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, the president of Kazakhstan said that no intervention in the conflict by any state should be allowed.

Nazarbayev recalled a proposal put forward by him recently to establish an Asian conference on confidence-building measures in the region, which to Central Asia should become, he contemplates, an agency similar to the CSCE in Europe. [sentence as received]

Apart from Central Asian countries and Kazakhstan as well as Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey, such an association could include Afghanistan. Russia should participate in it, too, Nazarbayev said.

"If the United States would join it—and I spoke about it with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—then China

and subsequently India, it would be possible to influence all the processes in our region," Nazarbayev said.

To Visit Russia 24 May

LD2205152992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, who is visiting the United States, has stated at a news conference at the UN Headquarters in New York that literally within a week, a treaty on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance will be signed between Russia and Kazakhstan.

Our editorial office has information that President Nazarbayev is to arrive in Moscow the day after tomorrow.

Nazarbayev Decrees Opening of Embassy in Ankara

LD1905181492 Alma-Ata Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] In connection with the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Turkish Republic, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has issued a decree opening an embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Turkish Republic in Ankara and appointing Kanat Bekmurzayevich Saudabayev as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Turkish Republic. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan has been instructed to decide the staff list and estimated budget for the Kazakh Embassy in the Turkish Republic.

Tereshchenko Flys To Moscow for Oil Price Talks

LD2105225992 Alma-Ata Radio Alma-Ata World Service in English 2030 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Kazakhstan Prime Minister, Mr. Sergey Tereshchenko is reported to have left Alma-Ata for Moscow urgently with the purpose to coordinate prices on oil products in Kazakhstan with the government of Russia. As it is known, Kazakhstan has lost hundreds of millions of [currency not specified] profit in the beginning of the year when Russia had freed prices of all products and services, while in Kazakhstan it was delayed for five days. Kazakhstan up till now receives 43% of its petrol products from Russia.

Turkmenistan

Government Wants Regional Troop Status Defined

OW2005195592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1752 GMT 20 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A high-level delegation of Turkmenistan arrives for talks in Moscow on Wednesday [20 May] to discuss, among other things, the status of troops deployed in that Central Asian state. This follows earlier agreement between presidents Niyazov and Yeltsin.

Mr. Niyazov at yesterday's session of Majlis (parliament) spoke of his government's determination to get the issue resolved as soon as possible. In his words, he and Mr. Yeltsin discussed the need for a military agreement between Turkmenistan and Russia before and at the Tashkent summit.

"That we did not sign the Commonwealth security agreement in Tashkent does not amount to our refusal to do so. However, we'll stay away until the status of troops deployed in Turkmenistan is defined. This implies which side is to pay for the upkeep of servicemen, stressed Mr. Niyazov. [no close quotation marks as received]

And he complained that in the absence of centralised supplies, Turkmenistan had to bear the burden of food supplies, including butter and meat, to the 110,000-strong army contingent.

"We do not intend to bring troops under our own jurisdiction or change anything by decrees", he went on to say. Mr. Niyazov hopes that if understanding is reached in talks with Russia on those issues an appropriate bilateral agreement can be signed early next month.

"I do not want the servicemen's hardships to be interpreted as our desire to drive them out of Turkmenistan. We believe both Russia and Turkmenistan need these troops for common defences. We will agree in future on how to bring down their strength", said Mr. Nyazov.

He also spoke of work being in progress on the establishment of a national army. Turkmenistan will have its own National Guard and armed forces, stressed president Niyazov. He put the proposed army strength at nearly 2,000 troops, loyal to the state, and able to defend both the country's new basic legislation and government institutions

IF [INTERFAX] note: Mr. Niyazov is due to meet regional military commanders on May 21 to discuss the status and upkeep of troops deployed in Turkmenistan.

President Outlines Future Economic Plans

OW2005195892 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1753 GMT 20 May 92

[From the "Presidential Bulletin"; transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] President Saparmurad Niyazov addressing parliament yesterday described his country's transition to market as a gradual process which would take from three to five years to achieve, but in a peaceful way.

On his government's shorter range social and economic priorities, Mr. Niyazov said it did not want to duplicate the moves by Turkmenistan's neighbours in the Commonwealth. He said full liberalisation and the removal of

price controls would hit the wage-earners reassuring MPs [members of parliament] that Turkmenistan would subsidise basic foodstuffs such as flour, children's food, butter and meat to keep them at average price levels in the next three years.

Consumer gas and electricity prices may be lowered to help living standards stay intact. Mr. Niayzov did not rule out the possibility of free of charge consumer gas as a longer-range prospect. Petrol prices can also remain fixed, he said, but the product must then be sold to passport holders.

Mr. Niyazov said the government would have to raise nearly Rbl [ruble] 40 bln [billion] in extra revenues to cover the cost of the declared minimum pay rise (up to Rbl 750) to take effect from July 1st.

To improve the consumer market, Mr. Niyazov called on local authorities not to fear to allow the opening of Iranian and Turkish shops saying the proceeds were subject to re-investment in Turkmenistan's economy under earlier agreements with those countries.

The president spoke of several foreign-aided projects to be implemented in the next few years, among them—a 200,000 tonne capacity gas-to-polythene factory at Seidi, a cotton mill outside the capital Ashkhabad, and an irrigation canal in the republic's south-west to help increase the production of oil-bearing and sub-tropical plants.

On the republic's interest in closer ties with Iran and Turkey, Mr. Niyazov said Turkmenistan would promote relations with those countries which "we need for cooperation". By now, Turkmenistan signed agreements on food credits with Iran, the European Community and Pakistan running at $50 mln [million], about $60 mln and $10 mln respectively.

The Turkmenian leader said that because of the situation as it was now, the republic's foreign loans running at nearly $150 mln, were deposited at German, French and US banks and would be used to finance larger projects.

Mr. Niayazov also plans to sign a decree allowing anonymous deposits at the national bank at an annual 20% interest rate and the introduction of cheque books.

IF [INTERFAX] note: Mr. Niyazov is due soon to go on a tour of parts of Turkmenistan to outline his government's priority moves.

Armenia

Russian Delegation Discusses Security, Reform

Burbulis Arrival Comments

LD2105204492 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Videotape report by correspondent Nazaryan; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian State Secretary Burbulis and Defence Minister Grachev flew to Armenia today. They have already had meetings with the Armenian leadership. The details of the situation in the republic are contained in our correspondent Nazaryan's report:

[Begin recording] [Nazaryan] On arrival, the Russian deputy prime minister gave explanations concerning the present meeting at the Yerevan airport of Zvartnots.

[Burbulis] Economic reforms in Russia and in Armenia are on today's agenda. Collective security and cooperation between our states in providing stability in the CIS region, and the all-European region are on today's agenda.

[Nazaryan] While Gennadiy Burbulis conversed with Levon Ter-Petrosyan, members of the Russian delegation held a number of consultations on problems of mutual interest with the heads of foreign political, economic and defense departments at the republican government. The Nagorno-Karabakh topic was also mentioned, especially the tension which has recently arisen on the border between Armenia and the Nakhichevan republic. Replying to correspondents' question about the possibility of Turkey's direct military support for Nakhichevan, the Russian deputy prime minister was very brief:

[Burbulis] This is out of the question, comrades.

[Nazaryan] By the way, it really was quiet at the border between Armenia and Nakhichevan today. Possibly, it is a result of yesterday's statement by the Armenian Government and its readiness to turn it into a zone of guaranteed security and stability. [video shows Burbulis' arrival and interview at the airport; Burbulis' meeting with Ter-Petrosyan and other officials] [end recording]

Burbulis on Security Accord

LD2105174992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 21 May 92

[Report over video from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The focus of tension in the Transcaucasus today finally moved to Nakhichevan and its borders with Armenia and Turkey. The Azerbaijani side is calling the former an aggressor and the latter a protector. Shots are being heard on the Armenian-Nakhichevan border, but both sides are blaming each other for the violation of peace.

State Secretary Burbulis and Russia's Defense Minister Pavel Grachev have arrived in Armenia. Armenia's Moscow information service alleges that the purpose of the visit is to avert military intervention by Turkey, whose forces—and I stress that this information comes from an Armenian source—are preparing to cross the Nakhichevan border.

A later ITAR-TASS report from Ankara says that Turkey's parliamentary opposition is demanding military intervention in Nakhichevan since the 1921 Treaty of Ankara gives Turkey this right in the event of anyone attacking Nakhichevan. It is claimed in Yerevan that a Turkish military force of 10,000 men has already been concentrated at the border.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In your view, are the CIS forces or the forces of the Russian Federation now stationed here ready to be involved in the issue of Armenia's security?

[Burbulis] That is already beyond doubt. We are united by the relevant treaty norms. They existed long before the CIS agreement. We are even more united by the basic norms of the Tashkent collective security agreement. [end recording]

Burbulis, Grachev on Talks

LD2205032892 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2302 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 22 May—Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis has ruled out the possibility of Turkish intervention in Nakhichevan. After a working meeting in Yerevan between the Russian delegation and the Armenian leadership, Burbulis, who is heading the delegation, was asked about Russia's position should Turkey intervene in Nakhichevan. His answer was brief: "That is out of the question."

Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, commented on his recent announcement on the upcoming withdrawal of Russian troops from Armenia, in particular. He believes that it does not conflict with the collective security treaty signed in Tashkent. That document, he told ITAR-TASS, foresees a defensive alliance among the signatory states and a collective defense organization. Regarding the troop withdrawal, he said the withdrawal and reduction of Russian forces in Armenia will take place in phases. The schedule, sequence, and procedure of the withdrawal will be agreed on during future working meetings, including in Moscow, he said.

General Grachev commented that he sees no "significant threat from Turkey." Regarding the specific schedule for the Russian troop pullout from Armenia, he stated that it will

take place once the Armenians have fully and finally examined Moscow's draft of the appropriate agreement. This document, the general said, will be examined in Moscow, "where we will define the time frame for our troops's continued presence and withdrawal."

Armenian Defense Minister Vazgen Sarkisyan announced that the talks in Yerevan could be considered a political success. However, he added, "in reality nothing has yet come out of them." As for the draft troop agreement put forward by Russia, Sarkisyan commented that for the time being priority will go to creating working groups to complete the work on the document.

Understanding 'On All Questions'

OW2105194492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Russia's State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis has had talks with Armenian leaders, including Levon Ter-Petrosyan in Yerevan on Thursday. The Russian Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, is in Yerevan together with Burbulis.

The negotiators met behind closed doors. As he answered questions later, Gennadiy Burbulis ruled out the possibility of Turkey's intervention in the events in the region on the side of the Nakhichevan republic. He was supported by the Russian Defence Minister. Pavel Grachev said that Russia contemplated the withdrawal of its troops from the region but added that Armenia would not be "left in the lurch".

"We achieved understanding on all questions of interest to both sides", people's deputy Viktor Sheinis said. He said that apparently Armenia would remain in the CIS, because that would be in the interests of both Russia and Armenia. Armenia is interested in preserving the presence of the Army.

After the negotiations the Russian delegates visited the residence of the Catholicos of all Armenians Vazgen I in Echmiadzin.

Manucharayan On Talks

LD2105211792 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2050 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, May 22 TASS—Ashot Manucharyan, chief adviser to the president of Armenia on national security affairs, has described as "very positive" the results of Thursday's talks between Gennadiy Burbulis, state secretary of the Russian Federation, and the leadership of Armenia.

The results of the talks revealed substantial progress in relations between Russia and Armenia, Manucharyan told ITAR-TASS on Thursday night. Matters concerning the military, political, economic and other fields were discussed in detail during the talks and accords on a number of problems were reached, Manucharyan said.

According to the chief adviser, the two sides also touched upon collective security issues, specifically matters concerning the presence of Russia's troops in Armenia.

A number of matters are yet to be specified, such as in particular those concerning the composition and status of these troops, a time-frame for their stay on the republic's territory and the range of tasks being accomplished by them.

Hovannisian Comments on Turkey, Security Treaty

OW2205120992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1137 GMT 22 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Armenia will not hesitate and will use its possibilities in accordance with the signed in Tashkent May 15 Treaty on collective security in case of a Turkish military intervention, the Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian stated at a press conference in Moscow Thursday [sentence as received]. According to Hovannisian, Azerbaijan already receives political and even military assistance from Turkey. At the same time he expressed hope that there are enough "sober minded people" and there will be no military intervention.

Having blamed Armenia for its aggression against Nakhichevan, an autonomy in Azerbaijan, the Turkish leaders declared about a possibility of sending their armed forces to that region.

The Minister refuted these accusations and said that the Armenian forces are simply staying in Armenia and counter the fire from the territory of Nakhichevan. Asked about the U.S. position in respect to the possible Turkish intervention into the conflict, Hovannisian mentioned the last telephone negotiations of the Armenian and U.S. Presidents Levon Ter-Petrosyan and George Bush. During these negotiations the U.S. party declared that such actions of Turkey are "unacceptable for the U.S.", Hovannisian said.

The Minister expressed his regret that Iran, whose leadership also blamed Armenia for the aggression, supports the Turkish position. But he underlined that these statements will not influence the Armenian readiness to take the mediatory efforts of Teheran.

Making comments on the Russian Defense Minister's statement on the future withdrawal of the Transcaucasus military district's armed forces from the territory of Armenia and Azerbaijan, Raffi Hovannisian stated that "the CIS armed forces will stay in Armenia due to its request."

Speaking on the peaceful settlement of the Karabakh conflict, Hovannisian stated that first of all it is necessary to reach a full truce under the international guarantees and the participation of the peace-supporting forces

which must be deployed along the border of the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] with Azerbaijan. After that the negotiations on the NKR's status between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh may be begun. In respect to the NKR's delegation presence on the CSCE's conference on Nagorno-Karabakh the minister said that the republic must be presented at the conference as a plenipotentiary participator.

Asks CIS Troops To Stay

LD2105193892 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1836 GMT 21 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Gvritishvili]

[Text] Moscow May 21 TASS—Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian voiced apprehensions about Turkey's possible military interference in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Speaking at a press conference in Moscow today, he substantiated these apprehensions with recent statements by Turkish leaders of various ranks and also that country's growing "political, economic and military support of Azerbaijan." At the same time, Hovannisian expressed hope that the neighbouring country will make sensible decisions and will not interfere in the conflict.

On relations with Nakhichevan, Hovannisian emphasised that Armenia was prepared to restore friendly relations with this region at any moment and was not the initiator of the conflict.

Hovannisian favoured Nagorno-Karabakh's equal participation in any talks on a peace settlement of the situation in this region. He listed several conditions for such a settlement, among them a total ceasefire and the simultaneous participation of U.N. peace-keeping forces.

He believes talks on the status of Nagorno-Karabakh can begin only after this. In Hovannisian's view, if Azerbaijan does not sit down at the negotiating table with Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia will be forced to recognise this region's full independence.

Hovannisian expressed satisfaction with the state of bilateral relations between Armenia and Russia, which, he said, was evidenced by the results of today's talks between Armenian leaders and state secretary to the Russian President Gennady Burbulis. He also said he asked Russian leaders to maintain Commonwealth troops on Armenia's territory.

Foreign Minister Phones Syrian Counterpart

NC2105133592 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1730 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Armenian Foreign Minister Raffi Hovannisian held a telephone conversation today with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the latest developments in Nagorno-Karabakh, in the border regions between Nakhichevan and Armenia, and some countries' misleading interpretations of these events.

Press reports say Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, in a telephone conversation with his Egyptian counterpart on 19 May, called for an urgent Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] session to examine Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

During their conversation, the Syrian foreign minister told Hovannisian that Nagorno-Karabakh is not a problem to be brought before the ICO because the conflict should not be treated as one of religion. Al-Shar' endorsed Armenia's effort to find a political solution to Nagorno-Karabakh.

The same day, the Armenian foreign minister spoke with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Muhammad Musa about the situation in the region. Musa agreed that the conflict should not be treated as a religious one. He also indicated that Turkey has called for Bosnia-Hercegovina to be discussed at the conference, but Turkey raising other issues at the conference cannot be ruled out.

'Kurdish Intellectuals' Urge Autonomy in Lachin

OW2105214092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A council of the Kurdish Intellectuals of Armenia has issued an appeal to local ethnic organizations and to the Kurdish diaspora asking them to support the process of the restoration of the Kurdish autonomy that existed in Lachin, Azerbaijan, back in the 20's and 30's. The council's statement issued on Thursday says that the restoration of the Kurdish autonomy would put an end to historical injustice and to the "hard times of the abuse of the ethnic rights and dignity of the Kurds". The council also wants a fair and civilized settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh problem and measures to maintain safety on the vital road going through Lachin "with the help and under control of Kurds and UN forces".

Difficulty in Paying for Gas Supplies Noted

NC2105181692 Yerevan ARMENPRESS International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 20 May 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Government Press Service]

[Text] The Republic's Operational Administration Headquarters met on 19 May under State Minister Ruben Chiftalaryan. Gagik Arutyunyan, vice president and prime minister, assessed the political situation and the possible economic difficulties that might result from it. He discussed the extremely serious financial situation, particularly the difficulty in paying for gas from Turkmenistan. He proposed measures to alleviate the situation, and stressed the need to resolve the problem of reciprocal supplies with Turkmenistan.

Implementation of the inter-state agreement with Turkmenistan was then discussed. A number of ministries reported on the measures they are taking to export their products to Turkmenistan.

The meeting named a delegation under Ruben Chiftalaryan to go to Turkmenistan and solve the problems with reciprocal supplies.

Armenia Fund Trustees Hold Initial Meeting

NC2105194492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 19 May 92

[Statement issued by the Armenian Government Press Service]

[Text] The concluding meeting of the pan-Armenian 'Armenia' fund founding conference took place at the official guesthouse on 16 May. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan; Supreme Soviet Chairman Babken Ararktsyan; Gagik Arutyunyan, vice president and prime minister; Deputy Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan; other officials; the Catholicos of All the Armenians Vazgen I; the Catholicos of the House of Cilicia Garegin II; and representatives of political, public, and charity organizations in Armenia and abroad participated. Arutyunyan chaired the meeting.

The three-day discussion approved the fund's by-laws, which say the aim of the fund is to mobilize the power and potential of the entire Armenian people to help strengthen and develop Armenia and create solid foundations to bolster national statehood.

The fund's constitution defines the procedure for establishing the fund's administrative and executive organs. The Council of Trustees will act as the administrative organ, with its members appointed by the Armenian president.

The president's appointments to the council were announced at the meeting.

After a break, the first meeting of the council took place. It discussed important practical matters such as formation of the fund's local commissions. It adopted procedures for awarding the titles of honorary member, benefactor member, and supporting member of the fund. It decided upon on emblem. It elected an interim director of the executive administration and an auditing commission. It also endorsed a proposal to publish a periodical.

During the meeting, the first contributions to the fund were made and the first honorary members were elected. The Catholicos of All the Armenians Vazgen I, Louise Manukian Simon, and Hrayr Hovnanian each contributed $1 million to the fund.

Prime Minister Arutyunyan spoke about the decision-making procedure for the target-oriented allocations of the fund's money. He proposed the following national programs be given priority: The socio-economic development of Zangezur [southern Armenia], the restoration of the earthquake zone, assistance to the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, housing construction for the refugees, reform of the financial system, and the implementation of a number of scientific, educational, cultural, and health programs.

Statement Issued

NC2105204492 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1215 GMT 20 May 92

[Statement issued by the Council of Trustees of the pan-Armenian Armenia fund; date, pace not given]

[Text] National statehood has been the Armenian people's greatest aspiration, and today it has become a fortunate fact. Our new state will have to surmount enormous difficulties and complete numerous and difficult tasks in the process of survival and invigoration.

The calamitous earthquake, thousands of homeless refugees, the critical conditions in Nagorno-Karabakh, devastated economy, prolonged blockade, and many other problems can be overcome only through the cohesive application of the power and potential of every citizen, working in unity and solidarity.

It should be the greatest honor and duty for every Armenian to participate in consolidating our national statehood—which is the main prerequisite for the survival and growth of Armenia—and in the economic, scientific, educational, spiritual, and cultural development of our country.

Therefore, the pan-Armenian "Armenia" fund should not be regarded as mere charity, but rather as a voluntary national tax and a citizen's duty.

We call on all our compatriots, regardless of where they live, to be moved by the most noble feelings of national consciousness and take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the rebuilding of national statehood, with the expectation of leaving an independent and burgeoning country for future generations.

[Signed] The Council of Trustees, and Levon Ter-Petrosyan, president of the Council of Trustees of the pan-Armenian "Armenia" fund.

Azerbaijan

Foreign Ministry Sends Warning Note to Armenia

LD2105170792 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1601 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Baku, 21 May (AZERINFORM-TASS)—"The annexationist policy which is being conducted by Armenia will sooner or later bear rotten fruit for the Armenian people, and will cause angry condemnation of those conducting that policy in the republic's present leadership." This is stated in today's note from Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry to Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Azerbaijan's foreign policy department recalls that on 19 May, sub-units of the Armenian National Army, having violated the republic's state border, occupied the town of Lachin and Azerbaijani territory adjoining it after prolonged rocket-artillery fire. This act of aggression, like the attacks on the autonomous part of Azerbaijan—Nakhichevan—is qualified by the Foreign Ministry as "A scandalous act of lawlessness and cynicism, the condemnation of which has resolutely been demonstrated by the absolute majority of the world community members."

The Azerbaijani people, states the Foreign Ministry, are fully resolved to defend the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the republic.

Republic 'Entitled' To Hold Aid Talks With Turkey

LD2205132292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] If events continue to develop as they are now, Azerbaijan will request Turkey to intervene in the situation.

This was stated at a news conference in Moscow by Tamerlan Karayev, deputy chairman of the Azerbaijani parliament.

This statement was backed up at the news conference by Rasim Masubekov, counsellor to the Azerbaijani president. He noted in particular that Azerbaijan is entitled to hold talks with Turkey about aid inasmuch as it is not capable of defending its territory with its own forces.

As AP reports, citing Azerbaijani news sources, Turkey has already started transferring its troops to the borders of Nakhichevan.

Aliyev Criticizes Shaposhnikov Warning to Turkey

LD2105182392 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1701 GMT 21 May 92

[By unidentified AZERINFORM-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan Republic), 21 May—"Marshal Shaposhnikov follows the old pattern of thinking, intimidating everybody with a third world war, to which, admittedly, the aggravation of the situation on the Nakhichevan-Armenian border and the Turkish reaction can lead," Geydar Aliyev, Chairman of the Supreme Majlis of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan, said today in a conversation with an AZERINFORM agency correspondent.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow yesterday, Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS joint armed forces, warned Turkey against direct participation in the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict. He stated that military interference by a third party would put the situation on the verge of a third world war.

Geydar Aliyev regards Shaposhnikov's statement with regard to inviting troops of the Turkish Republic to Nakhichevan as a guarantor for preserving this Azerbaijan enclave, separated from the rest of the Azerbaijan territory by Armenia and involved in the Azerbaijan-Armenian conflict, as poorly thought out. He pointed out that the Kars Treaty of 1921 on the Nakhichevan status was signed by Russia and Turkey. Russian military formations, he stressed, refuse to help the Azerbaijan people to repulse the Armenian aggression against part of sovereign Azerbaijan.

Geydar Aliyev underlined that not only Shaposhnikov's statement, but also the talks held in Armenia today by Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, give rise to bewilderment. Geydar Aliyev is confident that issues connected with Turkey's attitude to the events in Nakhichevan are discussed behind closed doors in Yerevan.

[Ankara ANATOLIA in English at 1550 GMT on 21 May, in a report on Aliyev's news conference adds: "Nakhichevan's President Geydar Aliyev on Thursday said there was no need for Turkish military intervention at the present state. Speaking at a press conference at the presidential residence he said Turkey's diplomatic efforts during the last four days has given results and the fighting in Nakhichevan on Wednesday was less intense compared to the beginning of the week.

["Aliyev told reporters the present support by Turkey was enough and there existed no need so far for military intervention. 'Although it is impossible to say what the Armenians will do and when they will attack,' he added."]

Aliyev Calls for Aid To End Isolation

TA2205132392 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1025 GMT 22 May 92

[Excerpt] Erzurum, May 22 (AA)—Nakhichevan Parliament Speaker Geydar Aliyev thanked the ANADOLU AJANSI [ANATOLIA AGENCY] on Friday, for informing the world about the Armenian attacks on their enclave. In a statement, Aliyev said that he was thankful to the Turkish media and "the Turkish media and the reaction of the Turkish people have shown the world that we are not without support."

Aliyev also called on Turkey to urgently supply food to Nakhichevan through the "Hasret Koprusu" (Bridge of Longing) between Turkey and his country. Aliyev added that their land and air connection with Azerbaijan have been cut after the Armenian attacks. "At present we are completely disconnected from Azerbaijan. We shall be able to reach Baku, Azerbaijan as from today, by making use of the Iranian air space."

Azeris in Nakhichevan, an enclave of 350,000 people squeezed between Turkey, Iran and Armenia, complain bitterly of being abandoned by the outside world. [passage omitted]

Turkish Delegation Meets With Aliyev

TA2205052792 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 0430 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] A Foreign Ministry delegation is holding contacts in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] in connection with clashes occurring there.

The delegation, headed by Ambassador Omer Ersun, met last night with Nakhichevan President Gaydar Aliyev. Following the meeting, Aliyev said that he briefed the delegation on the latest developments in the fighting and the conditions in the NAR.

The delegation will meet with Aliyev once more today after visiting the area where the fighting is taking place.

Aliyev: Hostilities Attempt To Divert Attention

LD2105170892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 21 May 92

[Video report from Azerbaijan by correspondent Mais Mamedov and A. Zeynalov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Mamedov] We prepared this report under continuous bombardment by Armenian armed formations that are attacking Sadarakskiy Rayon in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic for the fifth day now. [video captioned "Baku" shows soldier running; burned house; damaged houses; man firing machine gun from window of house; three soldiers running along a street; view of village; gunfire can be heard]

Although having great superiority in heavy equipment, the enemy failed to find success with its missions. It was unable to force its way into a group of inhabited localities here. As (Zakhtir Kuliyev), deputy commander of a regiment in the national army, told us, CIS troops are also fighting on the side of the Armenian formations. [video shows soldier addressing camera]

We managed, he said, to identify two infantry fighting vehicles bearing the numbers 74 and 87 and army markings. Local inhabitants have been obliged to leave their houses and live for the time being in tents like these. [video shows makeshift tents erected beside parked vehicles]

In just four days, 16 people have been killed in this area and 75 wounded, many of them seriously. [video shows three injured men in a hospital; man showing arm wounds] The most terrible thing is that the Armenians have started to use projectiles filled with poisonous substances.

[F. Dzhafarkuliyev, captioned as minister of health of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic] Meticulous expert examination, involving highly qualified specialists and the study of laboratory data, has confirmed that the projectiles fired in the Sadarakskiy and (Cheruskiy) rayons were filled with the chemical substance phosgene. [video shows Dzhafarkuliyev being interviewed, troops assaulting a hill]

[Mamedov] What has caused this conflict on the border of the two republics, where there had been a lull for about six months? [video shows correspondent interviewing Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Majlis, in an office]

[Aliyev] It must be assumed that certain circles in Armenia are evidently unhappy with what is going on in Nagorno-Karabakh. In order to distract attention from Nagorno-Karabakh they have decided to create a new hotbed of tension between Azerbaijan and Armenia here in Nakhichevan.

[Mamedov] Recently in the media.... [report ends abruptly]

Defense Ministry Reports on 20-21 May Clashes

NC2105194592 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Azerbaijani Defense Ministry Press Center provided this report on 21 May:

Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]: Sadarak was subject to intense fire by Armenian armed forces from 0600 until midnight on 20 May. Sharur Rayon was hit with long-range artillery. Chemical shells fell on the rayon, and five people were wounded. Armenian armored vehicles and armed units have been observed assembling along the border. The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces in the NAR are taking retaliatory measures to ward off the enemy attacks.

The information received from the Azerbaijan Popular Front branch military information center in the NAR at 1930 on 21 May said the following: Sadarak was hit with automatic-weapon and machine-gun fire from Armenia from 0700 to 1730 and was shelled later in the evening. The town was also fired on by Russia's 14th Border Battalion, which is based in the Armenia-Turkey border region. Armed Armenian and Russian units and armored vehicles have assembled along NAR's border close to Sadarak. Enemy forces also have massed along Turkey's border. The defense posts in the Khavysh, Yukhary Yaydzhi, and (Dzhekhafir) in Sharur Rayon were heavily shelled by artillery guns yesterday. The enemy forces in Armenia's Khachik town fired on the towns close to the Sharur Rayon center, destroying several homes and wounding five people, one of whom was a little boy.

The defense posts in Khavysh were hit with automatic-weapon and machine-gun fire today. A large force of Armenian armored vehicles and armed units has assembled in the direction of (Batabad) and Ordubad. According to the information we received up to 1730 today, four of our fighters were wounded in the clashes. The Armenians are continuing their attacks. Our fighters

have found the passport of one of the servicemen of the CIS units. It belonged to a citizen of Lithuania who is serving in the CIS Armed Forces.

Kubatlinskiy Rayon: Ashagy Dzhibikli, Yukhary Dzhibikli, Dzhovyan, and Cherely were hit automatic-weapon, machine-gun, and artillery fire from Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon from 2000 until midnight last night. The enemy units tried to approach Yukhary Dzhibikli. The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces warded off the enemy attacks. The attackers were repulsed.

Zangelanskiy Rayon: Seidlyar, Kazanchi, Agkend, and Gunkyshlakh, located near the Armenian border, were hit with various types of fire from Megrinskiy Rayon with various types of arms from 0830 to 2300 on 20 May. Two of our fighters were killed and five others were wounded. The field defense units of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces returned the enemy fire.

Dzhebrailskiy Rayon: Kyshlakh was hit with PGM [precision guided munition] and BTR [armored transporter] fire from Sur in the former Gadrutskiy Rayon from 1900 until midnight last night. A house was hit and destroyed but no one was killed.

Gorenboyskiy Rayon: Todan was fired on from the direction of the Armenian-inhabited Manashid and Erkech towns and Tap-Karakoyunly and [placename indistinct] were fired on from the direction of Tavush with automatic firearms, machine guns, and artillery guns on 20 May. One of the members of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces was wounded.

Tauzskiy Rayon: A large number of armored vehicles and armed units have been observed assembling in various areas in Armenia close to the Tauzskiy Rayon. Mindzhukhly was fired on yesterday. One of our fighters was killed.

Kedabekskiy Rayon: A group of armed Armenians penetrated the Kedabekskiy Rayon and drove off a flock of sheep at about noon yesterday. The shepherd was shot and wounded. After being informed on the incident, the defense units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces and members of the Special Militia Units arrived at the location where the border was violated. The enemy tried to obstruct our troops by firing on them with armored vehicles and large-caliber machine guns. In spite of being outnumbered [words indistinct] our troops engaged the enemy under the command of Sabir Mamedov, a lecturer at the Baku State University who is responsible for defensive measures in the region. The Armenian brigands were forced to retreat after a four-hour violent clash. The bodies of 10 enemy troops and many wounded Armenians were found in the battlefield. There were no casualties among our troops. The volunteers from the universities in Baku and the special militia units displayed great courage during the clashes.

Kazakhskiy Rayon: Kyzyl Gadzhily, Kushchu Ayrum, and Bala Dzhafarli were hit with automatic-weapon and large-caliber machine- gun fire from Armenia's Idzhevanskiy Rayon last night. An enemy vehicle was destroyed by a mine.

Phosgene Use Charged

NC2105203392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1900 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] The Internal Affairs Department for the Karabakh region has disclosed that four people were killed and seven others wounded in Seidlyar and Kazanchi in Zangelanskiy Rayon due to Armenian armed forces attacks today.

Several houses and [word indistinct] in the (Kenekhly) and Eyi border towns in Kubatlinskiy Rayon were destroyed and three residents of Arabachi in Kedabekskiy Rayon were wounded as a result of enemy fire two days ago.

The Armenian armed forces fired on several residential areas in the Agdamskiy, Terterskiy, Gorenboyskiy, Dzhebrailskiy, and Fizulinskiy Rayons with Grad rocket launchers, Crystal-type rockets, and artillery guns yesterday and today. Significant damage was caused in the towns.

A blood analysis on the wounded in Sadarak in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR] has revealed that the Armenian armed forces used chemical shells which contained [words indistinct] and phosgene. The use of these harmful elements have been banned by international agreements. In a statement to an AZERINFORM correspondent, NAR Health Minister Ferhad D. Kuliyev said that experts analyzed the tests, done at a special chemical laboratory, and have confirmed the use of these elements.

The wounded are being treated in a local hospital. An additional group of experts, including [word indistinct] surgeons, and neurosurgeons have been dispatched from Baku to help the NAR. The doctors have taken with them medical drugs, which are difficult to find in that region. Mustafa Tekinay, head of the central hospital in the NAR, has said that two seriously wounded people were saved through the skill of Professor Cherkez Dzhafarov, neurosurgeon M. Zekiyev, and [word indistinct] Rustam Aliyev. Tekinay also said that the doctors from Baku will remain in the NAR to continue their work and stand side by side with the defenders of NAR's border.

The situation in the border region is extremely complex. According to the information made available by the defense committee, 15 people were killed, nearly 80 people were wounded, and many houses and administrative buildings were destroyed during the three-day clashes with the Armenian armed forces in Sadarak. Power lines were also damaged. Consequently, the NAR was thrust into darkness. This disrupted the work of the industrial establishments. Armenian armed units and armored vehicles are massing on NAR's border and are expected to attack soon.

Front Leader Appeals To Supporters in Karabakh

NC2105205292 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 21 May 92

["Appeal" by Azerbaijan Popular Front, APF, leader Ebulfez Elchibey to "APF members and supporters fighting in Karabakh and in Azerbaijan's border with Armenia"; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] At this tragic time for our homeland—that is, when our people are threatened with death and our territory has been occupied by the enemy—the APF informs its members and supporters on the battlefront that they must fight the enemy until the last drop of their blood is shed. Not even one single step backward can be taken on the battlefront. Deserters and [word indistinct] will be severely punished by the APF and the state.

Kurd Cultural Center Urges End to 'Genocide'

OW2105213992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Kurdish cultural center "Ronai" in Azerbaijan has asked the world community, including the United Nations, to put an end to the "genocide of Kurds and Azeris in the area of the Armenian-Azeri conflict and to take sanctions envisaged by the UN charter against the aggressor—Armenia".

In its statement made public at a news conference in Baku "Ronai" says that Armenia's provocative statements about Kurdish resistance to Azeris in the zone of the conflict were "prompted by its annexationist policy aimed against the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan."

The statement says the Kurds have for more than four years fought shoulder to shoulder with the Azeris against mercenary bands from Armenia.

National Independence Leader Urges Election Delay

LD2205133992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 May 92

[Text] Etibar Mamedov, chairman of the National Independence Party of Azerbaijan, speaking at a news conference in Baku, has called for presidential elections to be postponed. They have been scheduled for 7 June. He also spoke of the need to disarm all armed wings of all parties. Answering journalists' questions about events in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, Mamedov expressed the opinion that the fall of Shusha and Lachin was the result of a conspiracy between Communist clans and the Popular Front. In addition, Etibar Mamedov denied a report that he had allegedly refused to take part in a coalition government. The National Independence Party, Mamedov said, will play the role of a constructive opposition. Until last autumn, Etibar Mamedov was an active member of the Popular Front leadership. He then founded his own party and declared its opposition to the Popular Front.

Georgia

Turkish Foreign Minister, Shevardnadze Meet

TA2105152692 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1450 GMT 21 May 92

[Text] Tbilisi, May 21, (A.A)—Diplomatic relations were established between Turkey and Georgia on Thursday [21 May].

Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, currently paying an official visit to Georgia, had a meeting today with Shevardnadze to discuss bilateral economic and political relations and regional and international issues.

A Tbilisi source told AA that Shevardnadze said at the meeting that he shared Turkey's view of the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute.

The same source said Shevardnadze said he was in full agreement with Cetin. When Cetin defined the policy followed by Armenia to be aggressive and expansionist and aimed at changing borders. [sentence as received]

Cetin and Shevardnadze also agreed on expediting reciprocal visits and contacts in order to help step up development of economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Apart from the protocol about establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries signed several letters of intent about transportation and communication between the two countries, an economic agreement and a technical cooperation agreement and a protocol on Turkey's assistance in training Georgian experts.

After the signing ceremonies, Shevardnadze told journalists that he had a proposal in mind about setting up a Georgian consultative council in order to establish peace and stability in the region and to deal with problems to arise with the participation of the countries of the region.

"Changing of borders by force and using troops is unacceptable," he emphasized and added, "If this is allowed, the way will be opened to agitations all over the world."

AA has learned that Georgia's wheat stocks diminished to a level to meet a ten day requirement only and that it is going to ask at least 50,000 tons of wheat from Turkey as humanitarian aid.

Cetin Holds News Conference

OW2105194092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1918 GMT 21 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that he knows nothing of a statement by his country's President Turgut Ozal about the possibility of Turkish troops being moved to the Nakhichevan autonomous republic.

Speaking at a news conference in Tbilisi on Thursday [21 May] the Turkish Minister said that Turkey tried to establish good-neighborly relations with Armenia lately. "However today Armenia has shown that it acts in Nakhichevan as an aggressor", he said. Cetin believes that "Armenia must realize that Nagorno-Karabakh is Azeri land" and Nakhichevan according to the treaty of 1921 is under the jurisdiction of Azerbaijan. "These days the force of arms will not subjugate anybody and what has been going on in Nakhichevan must be brought to an end", Cetin said.

Asked about arms supplies from Turkey to Azerbaijan, Cetin said that if Ankara really helped Azerbaijan, "there would be nothing of the sort there is today". Cetin and the Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvadze, who attended the news conference, told journalists about the agreements achieved in the course of the Turkish Foreign Minister's visit to Tbilisi. For instance, Turkey has agreed to give Georgia big credits. In the near future a relief aid supply of 50 tons of grain will be sent to Tbilisi from Georgia.

Cetin said that the countries of the Black Sea would sign a treaty of economic cooperation in Istanbul on June 25. In that meeting Georgia will take part. It will be represented by the chairman of the republican state council Eduard Shevardnadze. The Turkish foreign minister said that he had taken interest in Shevardnadze's proposal for creating a Council of the Caucasus, that would be handling all of the region's problems at the consultative level.

North Ossetia Blocks Georgian Military Highway

LD2205101192 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 22 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, May 22—North Ossetian Soviet Socialist Republic and South Ossetia are in mourning. In conformation with a decision of parliaments of these two republics a public mourning was declared from May 21 to 24 on their territory in connection with tragic events in the vicinity of Kekhvi village, where 36 peaceful residents, trying to seek shelter in North Ossetia from incessant rocket and artillery fire on South Ossetian settlements, were shot to death by Georgian militants [on 20 May]. The burial ceremony of the victims will be held on May 23 and 24 in Tskhinvali.

At meetings held in Vladikavkaz and Tskhinval, residents of the two republics demanded from the Georgian leadership to establish the guilty of the shooting down of absolutely innocent men and to hand them over to law enforcement authorities of South Ossetia as the crime was committed on its territory.

According to South Ossetian press-centre reports, the situation in the republic continues to be extremely tense. Sporadic gun-shots were heard on Thursday [21 May] night from the side of the Gori district settlements, where militia forces and sub-units of Georgian armed formations are billeted. No reports of casualties were received. A CSCE expert group visited Tskhinvali, who were acquainted with the situation in the region.

According to a decision of the North Ossetian parliament's extra-ordinary session, counter-measures are being taken against actions of the Georgian side. Thus, as of today a blocade of the Georgian military highway (the main transport highway linking foothills of Caucasus with Trans-Caucasia) has begun, and the supply of gas to Georgia has been stopped until the situation stablises in South Ossetia. Republican guard and local Cossack volunteers are being enrolled in Vladikavkaz. An appeal by the North Ossetian self-defence committee to the Russian leadership, containing demands to ensure supplies of arms and hardware to National Guards formed in the republic, was distributed here, and in case of refusal to resort to nationalization of military property and armament of the Vladikavkaz Garrison, other army units and subdivisions deployed on the republic's territory.

South Ossetian Prime Minister Interviewed

MK1505140592 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 May 92 p 3

[Interview with South Ossetian Prime Minister Oleg Teziyev by Artur Tsutsiyev on 13 May under "South Ossetia" rubric; place not given: "Russia Is Trying To Stengthen Regime Embroiled in Ethnic Conflict, South Ossetian Prime Minister Oleg Teziyev Believes"; first paragraph is editorial note accompanying interview]

[Text] The interview was given before the 13 May meeting in Tskhinval of representatives of Georgia and South and North Ossetia. But Oleg Teziyev has contacted the editorial office to say that as a result of the talks which took place no cardinal changes have been recorded in the sides' approaches.

[Tsutsiyev] What are the prospects for talks with Georgia? Is the Ossetian population prepared for compromises?

[Teziyev] For the moment let us not talk about compromises but, instead, agree on the principles which, if observed by both sides, will make it possible to put an end to the direct armed conflict and ensure stability as a condition for subsequent steps. People are demanding some kind of steps from us in this situation of instability, since a different situation will inevitably lead to the strengthening of South Ossetia. The continuing military conflict is hindering Georgia in obtaining credits from the West, so "noisy" and active military actions are not being undertaken right now: Pressure is being applied in

the shape of a total blockade and raids by the almost mythical Zviadists who can be blamed for everything. The Georgian authorities expect that this state of affairs—neither peace nor war, such an uncertain situation—will lead to the devaluation of the idea of national self-determination for South Ossetia and its economic self-destruction. There is one mechanism—the gradual and inexorable reduction of the Ossetian population.

[Tsutsiyev] What are the "rules" that should be observed in your opinion in order to make it possible to escape the present impassse in Ossetian-Georgian relations?

[Teziyev] First and foremost, a full cease-fire. International observers should be brought into the area to monitor its observance, and the blockade of Tskhinval should be lifted. A number of Georgian populated points are also blockaded, so an agreement would be mutually useful. Especially now, following the withdrawal from the republic of units of the internal troops which provided escort for freight intended for the population of the blockaded villages. The refugee problem is particularly acute for us and for North Ossetia. Measures to ensure their return and guarantees of their security are needed.

It is essential to halt the anti-Ossetian campaign in the Georgian mass media. Do not forget that Georgia's new authorities have not officially condemned Gamsakhurdia's policy in the region, nor have they changed anything in their interpretations of the sources of the conflict and its possible political prospects. For us it is extremely difficult to hold talks with a new Georgian Government which is continuing its aggression. At the talks we will demand that Gamsakhurdia stand trial as a war criminal.

As a whole we are of course pinning definite hopes on the upcoming talks, on the fact that the new Georgian leadership understands the realities which have taken shape in South Ossetia over the last two years. For us it is clear that it cannot be completely free of responsibility for the transgressions of the overthrown regime, which fact must also be reflected in the negotiation process.

[Tsutsiyev] What is now the attitude of the South Ossetian leadership toward Russia? What are relations with North Ossetia like?

[Teziyev] Strictly speaking, Russia, its people, and the government are helping us, they are supporting us materially and morally. Negative factors arise in connection with the activity of the Transcaucasus Military Distric command, which is transferring military hardware—helicopters, armored equipment, including tanks—to an extremely unstable regime, to a state embroiled simultaneously in a mass of ethnic conflicts. The dividends which they are reaping today from such a shortsighted political game will tomorrow turn into losses.

New facts have recently emerged. We were troubled not by the withdrawal of the internal troops from the republic but by how this was done. For five hours Tskhinval was actually protected only by small detachments of our national guard. This gives rise to grave, painful doubts as to the evenhandedness of Russian policy in the region. In an attempt to reinforce a much healthier new regime in Georgia the Russian Government did not concern itself with clearly designating the conditions which make possible for it the conclusion of treaties with Georgia in circumvention of the well-known decisions of the Fifth Congress of Russian People's Deputies. In these decisions the possibility of such treaties is linked with the settlement of the South Ossetia conflict, and it is far from over.

[Text] As far as relations between South and North Ossetia are concerned, I will say that the positions of their leadership will inevitably converge insofar as the movement toward the reunification of the divided Ossetian people is insuperable.

The last few days have seen a sharp deterioration in the situation around Tskhinval. In our earlier forecasts we somewhat underestimated the unscrupulousness of the new Georgian leadership. On the day of the proposed start to the talks in Vladikavkaz the Georgian side occupied the heights dominating Tskhinval. The methodical bombardment of district after district continues day and night, our hospital is overflowing with wounded. The Georgian side is now playing out a scenario whose first act was the withdrawal of the separating forces from Tskhinval. Given such a scenario, talks are merely a propagandist smoke screen.

Country To Claim Portion of Black Sea Fleet

LD2005180192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 19 May 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Another participant is increasingly making its presence felt in the quarrel about the Black Sea Fleet: Georgia. At the forthcoming meeting in Sevastopol, Georgia will appear for the first time in the role of a state claiming part of the Black Sea Fleet. Two naval bases, two brigades of ships and a specialists' training center are located on the Republic's coast

[Begin Lieutenant General L. L. Sharashenidze, chief state military adviser of the Republic of Georgia, recording] If the fleet is to be divided according to the principle which prevailed at the meeting on dividing the Caspian flotilla—I do not know if a final decision has been made on that—then this depends on the number of littoral states. If there are four littoral states on the Black Sea then each gets 25 percent. If proportional participation or some other principles are to be used as a basis—it is difficult to predict because we did not participate in these meetings—then we shall claim a part of the Black Sea Fleet proportional to the Black Sea coast of Georgia. This is 330 kilometers from Leselidze to the Turkish border. [end recording]

Electoral Expert Discusses Future Elections

AU1105071392 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 16 Apr 92 p 2

[Interview with Vakhtang Khmaladze, deputy chairman of the "Democratic Choice for Georgia" organization, by Lika Kldiashvili: "'There Will Be No Dictate of One Political Force'"; place and date not given]

[Text]**Our conversation with Vakhtang Khmaladze, deputy chairman of the "Democratic Choice for Georgia" organization and author of all the preceding laws on the elections, began with a question that is worrying all Georgians....**

[Kldiashvili]**Batono**[Georgian polite form of address]**Vakhtang, when will the new parliamentary elections take place?**

[Khmaladze] It has been decided that elections will be held in October. It is not possible to hold them in the summer as the situation regarding local organs of self-government has not yet been determined. As you remember, the prefecture institution has been abolished and the government has decided to replace it with democratic forms of collective self-government so that local leaders are elected rather than appointed. In certain regions, however, the Sakrebulo [Assemblies] dissolved themselves, while in other regions they ceased their activities and simultaneously lodged their protests. In principle, this was non-recognition of the current Georgian Government. This was a passive form of opposition, but there was also an active form. The well-known events in western Georgia served as grounds for this and, consequently, it was not possible to begin the electoral process there. Another, no less important reason, was the following: A year ago, many political parties did not participate in the elections to the local sakrebulos as they believed that these representative organs were, to all intents and purposes, lacking any real power. All power had been given to the prefects. Many representatives of the local intelligentsia and business circles also did not believe they could stand for election as deputies in the same way, incidentally, as certain political organizations. Now that the opportunity has arisen to truly elect the local self-government representatives, these organizations, not having their own representatives in the sakrebulo, that is to say not having the right to vote, have already had confrontations with them. An unstable situation has been created. These sakrebulo had the right but not the opportunity to create executive organs due to the strong opposition in the regions, whereas the opposition had the power but not the right. Therefore, republican rule had to be introduced in many regions and these executive organs had to be appointed. In spite of the efforts of the central authorities, it was very difficult to take account of the views of all the political forces when making these appointments. There were always certain groups that remained dissatisfied with these appointments. Therefore, it was decided to elect the local administrative leaders by direct elections before holding parliamentary elections, that is to say, the leaders at all local levels would be elected by the people. We believe that such elections will help stabilize the situation.

[Kldiashvili]**Under what system will the future parliamentary elections be conducted?**

[Khmaladze] This past 21 January, a draft resolution on the elections was published, establishing the system of proportional representation with a single transferable vote. Our organization proposed several electoral systems to the Coordinating Council of Political and Social Organizations. Following a detailed discussion, it was decided to adopt this particular system. The majority of countries use the majority system, where one deputy with the support of more than half the electorate is elected in an electoral district. If a candidiate does not receive the sufficient number of votes in the first round, the candidate with the most votes in the runoff is elected. In the case of a purely proportional system, that is to say, elections conducted according to party lists, the mandates received are distributed in proportion to the votes of the electorate. As a result, if a country has two political forces radically opposed to one another, then almost all votes are distributed between them with almost nothing remaining for the other political forces. This was manifested particularly clearly during the elections in the post-communist states.

Both systems belong to the so-called harsh category. As a result, basically, a two-tier parliament is elected in which the other political groups can only participate indirectly as they are unable to exert any real influence upon parliamentary policies. In the case of such systems, minorities—political or ethnic—have practically no chance of obtaining seats in parliament. The system we proposed guarantees them seats in parliament. I will explain how this works: Under the proposed system, so-called multimandate electoral districts are created. Let us suppose that we have an electoral district with four mandates, that is to say four deputies are to be elected. Under the proposed system, a candidate needs to obtain one-fifth of the vote in order to be elected. If this four-mandate district were to be divided into four single-mandate districts and elections were to be conducted according to the purely majority system, it is clear that, if barely less than one-half of the electorate wanted to elect someone, that candidate would have no chance. If these districts are combined to form one with four seats, then each fifth of the total vote will definitely guarantee the election of a candidate. This system gives the electorate the opportunity to determine in advance its attitude toward all proposed candidates in the very first round of voting and, at the same time, promote the choice of the most acceptable candidate. Such a system does not seem a harsh one as it enables the widest spectrum of political forces in the country to be represented and provides the best insurance against the dictate of one political force.

During discussion of the draft resolution on the elections, certain parties (the Monarchist Party, the National Independence Party, and also some members of the State Council) proposed adding to this system the possibility of electing deputies according to party lists. The rejection of this principle by public opinion is due to the fact that, during the 1990 elections, this system provided the "Roundtable—Free Georgia" with a "long tail" and, at the same time, guaranteed it a majority in parliament.

[Kldiashvili]**Do you believe it is legal to hold elections before the status of the Georgian citizen has been restored?**

[Khmaladze] The citizen's status should be determined for the elections. It must be determined by a legitimate organ of power, however. The State Council can only adopt a decree on citizenship.

The elections must be held as soon as possible. Therefore, the Coordinating Council uniting more than 30 parties considered it possible, before the adoption of a citizenship law, to determine who who will have the right to participate in the vote on the resolution on the elections. This is determined by the so-called "zero option, which" is considered the most democratic and fair. Accordingly, a person will be considered a citizen of Georgia if, at the time the citizenship law is adopted, and, in our case, at the time of the elections, he is a permanent resident in Georgia, has no permanent residence status outside Georgia, and is not a citizen of another state.

Estonia

Ruutel Addresses Supreme Council on Independence

LD2105192692 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0900 GMT 20 May 92

[Excerpts] The focal event of the day today here in Toompea Palace was the speech by Arnold Ruutel, chairman of the Republic of Estonia Supreme Council. Arnold Ruutel noted that the situation in the state has forced him to address the Supreme Council. Today's speech fell on the anniversary of the day nine months ago when in this hall the Supreme Council decided to enforce independence of the Republic of Estonia. Arnold Ruutel noted that observing its previous resolutions the Supreme Council has been working—so as to restore independence—in cooperation with the Estonian Congress. Neither of the two can aspire to the constitutional basis, and their activity will end when the constitutional bodies of power come into force. Until this takes place the Supreme Council will be the sole legislative body in the Republic of Estonia, responsible both for ensuring the state's independence and for the creation of foundation for a life of independence. The forces attempting to remove it prematurely from this role or render it impotent have made a political miscalculation. No other body can at present temporarily replace the Supreme Council as the legislative body. To deprive Estonia for a period of its top authority would mean leaving reforms without a legal cover. We have no other body of state power which could lead the...[corrects himself] transitional period to its conclusion.

This was a very significant facet Arnold Ruutel today brought to the Supreme Council. It seems that in Estonia the situation is currently full of internal tensions. Jaak Joeruut, deputy, and chairman of the commission for culture, education and science, was asked to comment.

[Begin Joeruut recording] Well yes, that is so. The pickets in front of Toompea Palace, which otherwise would go with normal democracy and could set themselves up here, naturally, have within the last week overstepped their mark slightly. At least for me that is so, putting it frankly. People demand that some deputies be stoned to death, that some be killed, and threaten them with the hour of revenge. This kind of a thing is not a part of democracy. And if there are attempts to disperse the Supreme Council under slogans of this kind—simply because we do not like a section of deputies, let us kill them off, and send the rest of the deputies home—naturally, we are not talking of slogans which are beneficial to the State of Estonia. [end recording]

Domestic tensions are full of the continuous excitement of expectation. The Estonian currency is expected; nobody knows when D-day is. The referendum is expected, so that the fundamental law—its draft—will rest with the people. And the first parliamentary elections are expected. Jaak Joeruut again:

[Begin Joeruut recording] Well, yes, this is what it is. The setting of the dates would end the ambiguity. I do understand. There has been much criticism against the Supreme Council, and that is quite natural. There is bound to be criticism against the next parliament, and any one to follow, as well as against the government, but I would hope very much that today, while we discuss this present point on the agenda we will be able to make the decision to call for the referendum on the fundamental law—and that will include the additional question of top communists' role in future top posts, and everything else—on 28 June. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Dangerous Aggravation' Noted

LD2005160992 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1552 GMT 20 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Maloveryan]

[Text] Tallinn May 20 TASS—Speaking at a parliamentary sitting today, chairman of the Estonian Supreme Soviet, Arnold Ruutel, put forward a proposal to hold a referendum on a draft of a new Estonian constitution on June 28, and schedule an election of a new legislative body of the country—a national assembly—for August 23, 1992.

Touching on the political situation in Estonia, Ruutel drew attention to the dangerous aggravation of the rivalry between the Supreme Soviet and the Public Congress of Estonian citizens. Displeased as it is with rates and ways of restoring a constitutional system, the congress is pressing to dissolve the Supreme Soviet. Ruutel believes that the dissolution of the legislative body of power will slow down Estonian statehood and further aggravate the legal vacuum.

In reply to deputies' questions, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet characterized the public manifestation, which was organized by Estonian "greens" on March 18 against the naval base in Paldiski, as an "expression of a will" of the people who no longer wish to reconcile themselves to the foreign troops stationed on the Estonian territory. According to Ruutel, the people could be satisfied with a schedule of the troops' withdrawal worked out with due consideration for the interests of the Estonian side.

Agreements Signed With Tajikistan, Turkmenistan

LD1905192392 Tallinn Radio Estonia in English 2030 GMT 18 May 92

[Text] Estonia has signed trade agreements with Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The announcement was made today by the Estonian Trade Minister, Andres Tamm. The agreements for 1992, providing mainly for cotton for clothes and food exchanges, make it possible for Estonia to receive 10,000 tons [as received] of cotton from the two Central Asian republics. We have a 50-year experience of receiving cotton from this region, said

Tamm. The trade agreements give enterprises the opportunity to conclude detailed cooperation agreements. He added that Estonia is interested in signing trade agreements with all the new CIS states. Agreements with Byelarus and Ukraine are to be signed in the near future, though due to the political instability Georgia and Moldova are further off in the schedule.

Latvia

Baltic Fleet Servicemen Attacked; Weapons Taken

LD1805215592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 2003 GMT 18 May 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] Riga—Conflicts related to Russian troops' staying in the Baltics became frequent in the Baltic states. In the night of May 18 a radio technical group of the Baltic Fleet at Cape Kolka, 60 Km from Ventspils, was attacked. Headquarters of the Baltic Fleet informed PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent that 6 navy men under the command of Warrant Officer Andrey Chernukha serve at the group. Approximately at 1230 a.m. two unidentified masked men broke into the house where the warrant officer lived with his mother, roped the officer and demanded to have the keys of the ammunition room. After no result they tied his mother's hands with a wire and started to beat the woman threatening to kill her. After that the officer gave them the keys. The assaulters (as became known later there were five of them) entered the navymen's house, tied the duty soldier and stole 13 AKM submachine guns, 4 hand grenades and other property. The attackers escaped to an unknown location on an Uaz jeep. Head of the nearby border guard unit Lieutenant Avdeyev who saw the car says that there were five people in it. Currently the lost weapons are being searched for.

According to PF information, on May 14 border guard Private Nikolay Paliyev was wounded in a leg while dismantling a communication cable near the settlement of Garkalne near Riga. He was shot by volunteers of the Riga regiment headed by Roberts Zillers. Commenting on the incident, Commander of the Communication Battalion of the Baltic Border Guard District Anatoliy Branovitskiy told PF: I was ordered to dismantle the armored cable of multi- channel communication placed in the Garkalne Forest in case of war in late 1980s. While we were working some local residents came up to us. One of them presented a deputy's mandate and inquired what we were doing. I gave him an answer after which he sat on his bicycle and went away. In several minutes a Latvian van and a Moskvich car arrived carrying volunteers armed with guns and submachine guns. I would like to mention that all of us had no arms. A volunteer came up to our car and shot two wheels. Commenting on the same situation, head of the Latvian Republic Volunteer Troops Girts Kristovskis told PF that approximately 45-50 volunteers demanded that Russian border guards should stop their work. When the border guards commander refused to obey and ordered to continue work, the volunteers warned the soldiers to stay away from the cable otherwise they would open fire. Kristovskis followed that the soldiers did not pay attention to the warning and volunteers opened fire pointing in the earth. As a result one of the volunteers was wounded in a toe. At present the case is under investigation. Excuses in the volunteers regiment headquarters were brought to battalion commander Lieutenant-Colonel Branovitskiy. Similar incidents took place lately in Lithuania. On May 15 six fuel tanks belonging to the Kaunas Airborne Division marched outside the base. The convoy moved according to the rules and, according to PF's military sources, the district military commander had authorized the move. Near Panemune and Rokai the trucks were stopped by representatives of the Lithuanian Land Guard Department. Having checked the documents and the legitimacy of the convoy's move representatives of the department demanded that convoy senior, a warrant officer, give them 1 ton [as received] of fuel. The warrant officer refused and ordered the trucks to move on. In response the Lithuanian men shot through the wheels of 2 vehicles. Major General Valeriy Khatskevich, commander of the airborne division, said on May 18: I sent officers to the spot immediately and fuel tanks were returned to the base. According to Khatskevich, the incident was dangerous because the tanks had been full with fuel and wooden residential houses were only 20 meters away from the scene. According to division commander, from now on all convoys of the division will move accompanied by armed guards. Paratroopers also intend to place their groups near permanent patrols of the Lithuanian land guard troops.

Representatives of the Lithuanian Land Guard Ministry had been following the temporary rules of the move of military vehicles under Russian jurisdiction and based on Lithuanian territory. According to the document approved on May 14 by the Lithuanian Ministries of Land Guard and of the Interior, the move of military vehicles may be allowed only by a special permission of head of the district military office. There are three types of passes—one-time, temporary and permanent. The passes may be obtained by preliminary permission submitted no later than three days in advance, and for convoys—10 days in advance. Drivers must stop and present car and cargo documents on demand of policemen and patrols. Most probably, this document caused the conflict near Kaunus. According to General Khatskevich, the Ministry of Land Guard and the police do not have any right to establish laws for the troops, even if someone else's troops. This is the government's business.

Gorbunovs Receives Protest From Mironov

LD2005204292 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1958 GMT 20 May 92

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Riga May 20 TASS—Major-General Valeriy Mironov, commander of Russian Northwest Troops, handed in a protest to Latvian Parliamentary Speaker Anatolijs Gorbunovs on Wednesday [20 May] in connection with recent incidents between Latvian armed formations and the Russian Army.

The note of protest contains facts of a wounded Russian border guard, an attack on a radio control post of the Baltic Fleet and the seizure of a Russian military settlement in Riga.

The situation which emerged as a result of a temporary deployment of Russian troops on the Latvian territory is becoming more complicated and dangerous, the statement said.

Mironov informed Gorbunovs that the Military Council had adopted a resolution to prevent other actions damaging the interests of the Russian Federation, its citizens, servicemen and their families.

According to the press centre of the Northwest Military District, servicemen are allowed to use firearms for self-protection.

Gorbunovs expressed regret that an agreement to specify concrete terms and dates of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Latvian territory and the order of [words indistinct] facilities had not yet been reached.

Russian Ship Enters Harbor 'Without Permission'

LD2005192292 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1730 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Yet another item about the Army, this time, in fact, about the Navy. We are informed by Latvian Naval Forces Commander Gaidis Zeibots that yesterday at 1350 [1150 GMT], a Russian Navy troop ship, fleet number 018, entered the territory of Riga Harbor without permission. The harbor [word indistinct] service had not given its permission to enter. Lieutenant Pavlovs, the officer on duty at the Naval brigade located at Bolderaja, was informed of what happened, and replied: We are monitoring its movement. In accordance with the law on the state borders of Latvia, a warship may enter Latvian territory only with the permission of the Latvian Foreign Ministry. This time it did not have it. The Latvian side is prepared to show understanding and even allow exceptions, but that relates to those ships that are based here in Latvia, Riga, Liepaja or Ventspils, and even then only in case the commander notifies us of his expected movement. But for other ships the permission of the Latvian Foreign Ministry is necessary.

The two latest ships, 018 and 021, are ships of the Northern, not the Baltic Fleet, by the way. Today Latvian Navy vessel, number 101, sailed close to the ships that have come without permission to Bolderaja. Sailors aboard it saw that cars were being loaded onto the foreign ships. It is clear that an attempt is being made to carry an illegal cargo out of Latvia.

Premier Expresses Regret on Privatization Law

OW2005215692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1920 GMT 20 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Wednesday [20 May] the Latvian parliament adopted a law on privatization of state-owned enterprises. Under the law, privatization process at every enterprise will be monitored by corresponding ministry.

The alternative proposal of the government and the parliamentary commission on economy to charge the Latvian Economic Reform Ministry with carrying out the privatization was rejected by the deputies.

After the vote Premier Godmanis expressed regret at the rejection of the government's draft law. He said that he would try to change the situation. He believes that in this case "the lobby principle worked, i.e. to protect one's own interests avoiding the government".

Deputy chairman of the commission on economy Kazimir Spogis expressed the opinion that decentralization will complicate the privatization process, because every ministry is interested in preserving dependency of enterprises to be privatized.

Lithuania

Landsbergis Counters Deputy Motieka's Remarks

LD2105091792 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2130 GMT 20 May 92

[Text] Parliament chairman, Vytautas Landsbergis, has countered the criticism voiced against him by his deputy, Kazimieras Motieka, on Monday [18 May]. In a televised address this evening Vytautas Landsbergis said that Kazimieras Motieka just did not know how many efforts he had put in to resolve the conflict between the government and the Bank of Lithuania.

As to Kazimieras Motieka's reproach that he had (?stopped supervising) the drafting of [words indistinct] of the presidential institution to be submitted to parliament, Vytautas Landsbergis said he would have called forth different criticism if he had taken up the work.

Kazimieras Motieka said in his Monday statement among other things that the referendum did not so much concern the restoration of the presidential institution as the appointment of the country's president.

Vytautas Landsbergis stressed that the referendum was being held on the presidency in general while the elections would be held later and the electors would show which candidates they trusted more. The parliament chairman said he had urged MPs [members of parliament] who are against or doubt the expediency of the referendum not to tear parliament to pieces and not to disturb the society. He also said he had called upon the

deputies not to push hurried, unwise and illegitimate decisions in parliament tomorrow.

Saudargas on Vagnorius Resignation, Politics

OW2005142792 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1419 GMT 20 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuania's Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas has called for discussing in the parliament without delay the ways to achieve political stabilization in the country. Addressing legislators on Tuesday [19 May] he suggested that they should consider the introduction of presidency in the republic as a means of stabilization. There is no political crisis in Lithuania, he said. Only an "old as the hills" struggle for power is in progress.

According to him the right-wingers will have a strong presidential candidate, V. Landsbergis, while at the parliamentary elections "populist sentiments will prevaill. Therefore, said the Foreign Minister, the left-wingers will aim to narrow the President's powers as much as possible, delay presidential elections after the adoption of the constitution to the utmost, and discredit the leader of right-wingers. A. Saudargas urged the left-wing MPs [members of parliament] "to shake off the intoxication of political struggle".

According to him, the following steps should be taken: Conduct parliamentary elections first and then adopt a new constitution after nationwide debates. With reference to the request of Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius for resignation he said: We should either accept it and form a cabinet of leftist forces or reject it and give the prime minister the right to reform his government.

Mitterrand Visit, Troop Withdrawals Reviewed

LD1505154592 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1200 GMT 15 May 92

[Studio Interview with Foreign Minister Algirdas Saudargas by announcer, on 15 May—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

[Announcer] You have met and talked with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Will the fact of what stand will be taken by Russia toward the withdrawal of the troops of the former USSR and of Russia deployed on the teritory of Lithuania have importance in France's foreign policy toward Russia?

[Saudargas] Firstly, I would like to note that the withdrawal of the former Soviet army, for which now Rusia is bearing responsibility, concerns us that it does not become an obstacle in our current good relations with Russia. Therefore concern about this exists. If the withdrawal is delayed, it may become an obstacle in the development of good relations between Lithuania and Russia, not mentioning the fact that it might worsen to some extent the relations between Russia and France. This is not included in our plans. Hence this concern, I think, bilateral concern both of the Republic of Lithuania and of Russia. This is noted at our talks. Of course, each country has its own interests, they are stated. Russia usually stresses that the issue of the withdrawal is linked with social aspects, with the officers' living conditions. Lithuania does not deny this but accentuates the problem of security, problems which might arise if the withdrawal of these troops is delayed for a long time. This is at least a normal dialogue that reflects the confrontation of interests. But without this confrontation no talks could take place, if there is no difference in interests, there is nothing to talk about. At present our attempts that this is discussed at international forums, I think, should not worsen relations between the Republic of Lithuania and Russia, moreover, between France and Russia.

[Announcer] Tell us, today at the briefing deputy Nikolay Nikolayevich Medvedev said that the inclusion of the issue of the withdrawal of Russian troops from the territory of Lithuania already this year and the inclusion of this issue in the referendum might have a negative influence on the situation in Estonia and Latvia, and also that this issue might meet with a negative response of the international public in Europe. What can you say in this respect?

[Saudargas] I do not think so, I did not have that impression when I gave information about such initiatives of the Lithuanian public to include this issue in the nationwide referendum. We include this initiative of the Lithuanian society as an element of our foreign policy. We are using civilized methods, we intend to propose at the Helsinki conference a general mechanism that would solve or include such problems in the discussions at this conference. Such a referendum would create a precedent when it will be clearly stated that the society in one country does not wish it and demands that the army be withdrawn. If this is not done, if there are some delays, it will be a mechanism of internationalization, that it must be examined at international forums as a situation which threatens to become dangerous as far as some future conflicts are concerned, that it must be examined by international society. I think that this is being received with understanding and I believe that the citizens of Lithuania will understand our stand and will respond to our initiative, will take part in the referendum and say "yes" for the withdrawal. I think that this will be a contribution not only to Lithuanian foreign policy, but also a positive contribution of Lithuania to the international mechanism of security.

Defense Minister Still Sees Russia as Threat

OW1505224292 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1810 GMT 15 May 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview with the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper, Lithuanian Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius expressed the view that Russia will never give

up its possibility to control the Baltic states, and will use the presence of the troops of the former USSR on their territory as one of the means to keep them "tied down". In his opinion, Russia is a "country with vague prospects which in about two years' time will present great danger to Europe".

Decree Restricts Russian Military Movement

LD1505091392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1300 GMT 15 May 92

[Excerpt] Audrius Butkevicius, minister of national defense of the Republic of Lithuania, and Petras Valiukas, minister of internal affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, signed a decree today concerning the confirmation of the provisional rules for the movement of military vehicles of the military units in the Russian jurisdiction and depioyed on the territory of Lithuania. It reads inter alia: In compliance with the decision of the Lithuanian Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 8 January 1992 concerning the contingent of the former Soviet Armed Forces in Lithuania and in an attempt to restrict the movement of the vehicles of the military units of the Russian armed forces, and to ensure public order and safe traffic on the roads, the provisional rules for the movement of the military vehicles of the military units which are deployed on the territory of Lithuania and which are in the jurisdiction of Russia have been confirmed.

The joint headquarters of the Ministry of Defense and headquarters of the Ministry of Interior Affairs were entrusted with the task to monitor how the provisional rules are complied with. The provisional rules become valid from the day of their confirmation.

The order of movement on the roads of Lithuania by the military vehicles of the military units in the Russian jurisdiction deployed on the territory of Lithuania, the legal responsibility and the actions taken by the police officers and the officials from the Defense Ministry in monitoring how these rules are being complied with have been defined by the Provisional Rules. The movement of the vehicles of the military units of the Russian armed forces on the roads of the Republic of Lithuania is permitted only with a special permit issued by the commandant of the district. The permits issued for the movement of the vehicles are temporary, up to seven days, valid for one trip only, or are permanent permits. [passage omitted]

Patrolling of Polish Border Taken Over

LD1505101392 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2300 GMT 14 May 92

[Text] Early Tuesday [12 May] morning the Lithuanian border patrol took over three more sections of the Lithuanian-Polish border line in the Lazdijai region. Chief of the Lithuanian border patrol headquarters, (?Pranas Dragunaitis) told Radio Vilnius that the Russian guards who had patrolled these sections until now were constantly expressing their dissatisfaction over the activities of the Lithuanian border guards. However there were no serious incidents.

(?Pranas Dragunaitis) also said that the Lithuanian border patrol officers are taking over the control of several more sections of the Lithuanian-Polish border line. He did not reject the possibility of a conflict over this matter with the former Soviet border guards.

Meanwhile the Lithuanian Defense Minister, Audrius Butkevicius, stated in an interview to the Lithuanian daily "LIETUVOS RYTAS" that the takeover process is taking place according to a plan worked out and coordinated beforehand.

Support for Sanctions Against Libya 'Symbolic'

PM2005120592 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 19 May 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Nikolay Lashkevich: "Lithuania Joins Sanctions Against Libya"]

[Text] Vilnius—In accordance with a government decision Lithuania, as a UN member, will comply with the Security Council resolution on Libya.

In particular, Lithuania will not allow aircraft to be used in its air space for flights to Libya, or permit deliveries of aircraft or weapons to Libya, and will not allow Libyan airlines to open branches in the republic. The entry of Libyan citizens to Lithuania will be restricted.

The Lithuanian Government's decision is of a symbolic nature, reflecting solidarity with the international community, rather than having any practical consequences. At any rate, the presence of Libyans, let alone an intensification of their activity, has not been noted in Lithuania.

Sajudis Factions Issue Statement on Presidency

LD1905182192 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0705 GMT 19 May 92

[Summary] At today's Supreme Council session there was a tense situation in the hall. Deputies were making statements as a well attended demonstration occurred in front of the Supreme Council building.

At the session a joint statement was made by the Sajudis, the Sajudis Accord, and the Tautininkai [Nationalists] factions which contained the following passage: "Both the leftist, the so-called independent press, and our opponents have attempted to deceive the people of Lithuania by intimidating them with some kind of dictatorship arising from the presidential institution. The introduction of a presidential institution is a means of ensuring the interaction and cooperation of the authorities."

The statement added: "We, the deputies of the three Sajudis factions, do not see a more important task than

to consult with the electors and to conscientiously and correctly explain the purpose of the presidential institution in Lithuania's present life, stressing the [word indistinct] expression of the will of the electors and their civic duty."

LLDP Issues Statement on Political Situation

LD1905123492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0600 GMT 19 May 92

[Statement read by Ceslovas Jursenas, official of the Lithuanian Labor Democratic Party, LLDP, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] Esteemed listeners, so that we have a better understanding of what we should be doing at the first referendum we should have a better picture of what the Lithuanian situation is and who has or has not done what needs doing and how much blame there is for everybody.

Therefore, while bringing in perhaps a somewhat different point of view or rather a view from a different angle on the problem under discussion, I first of all would like to read a statement by the Presidium of our party and our faction.

With the political situation rapidly deteriorating in Lithuania and the economic crisis increasing further, the so-called right-wing political forces began to look feverishly for those to blame. It is paradoxical that parties and political movements in whose hands are all the levers of the state power and control are attempting to shift the results of their failures and inability to work onto the shoulders of the opposition. Demagoguery is the only word for it. One can only regret that this position which has no prospect is supported and encouraged by Vytautas Landsbergis, chairman of the Supreme Council, and Gediminas Vagnorius, prime minister of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.

The LLDP Presidium and the parliamentary faction would like to note:

It was not the Lithuanian Labor Democratic Party and its parliamentary faction who proposed the laws or amended the laws and decrees on agriculture which set the Lithuanian farmers against one another and destroyed the existing agricultural potential;

It was not members of our party who prepared the government decree demanding the replacement of 30 percent to 50 percent of all officials;

We were not the people who proposed temporary heads of administration of the enterprises;

We were not the people who initiated the witch hunt in Lithuania;

It was not the LLDP and its deputies who inspired the premature reinstatement of the presidential institution in Lithuania which had drawn the Lithuanian public into the struggle fought by the groups fighting for power;

It was not the members of the LLDP and its supporters who staged constant pickets and went on hunger strikes, it was not our party who threatened to take extreme, unspecified measures for the achievement of their political goals;

It was not the LLDP who set up the current government, it was not the LLDP who selected the people for the prime minister's cabinet, and it was not the LLDP who later had set them against one another;

It is not the representatives of our party who supervise the privatization services, the commissions of the agrarian reform;

It was the Sajudis and other great political organizations and not our party who were approached to give recommendations for individuals for appointment to the leading posts.

The LLDP Presidium and the LLDP faction at the Supreme Council are convinced that the people of Lithuania will not be deceived. They realize very well what the real situation is. At the same time we desire that in future all the officials, the chairman of the Supreme Council included, and all the political forces while publicly announcing accusations against the LLDP at the same time publicly produce specific proof of these accusations. First of all we have in mind the claim of late that has been voiced with increased frequency that allegedly the LLDP is determined to agitate for joining the CIS. We would like all of this to be well founded and not be based on invention. The position of the LLDP has been laid out in its program, in the prepared draft of the constitution, and in other documents. The LLDP firmly adheres to them and will do so in future.

On behalf of the Presidium of the Council [as heard] and the parliamentary faction: signed by Algirdas Brazauskas.